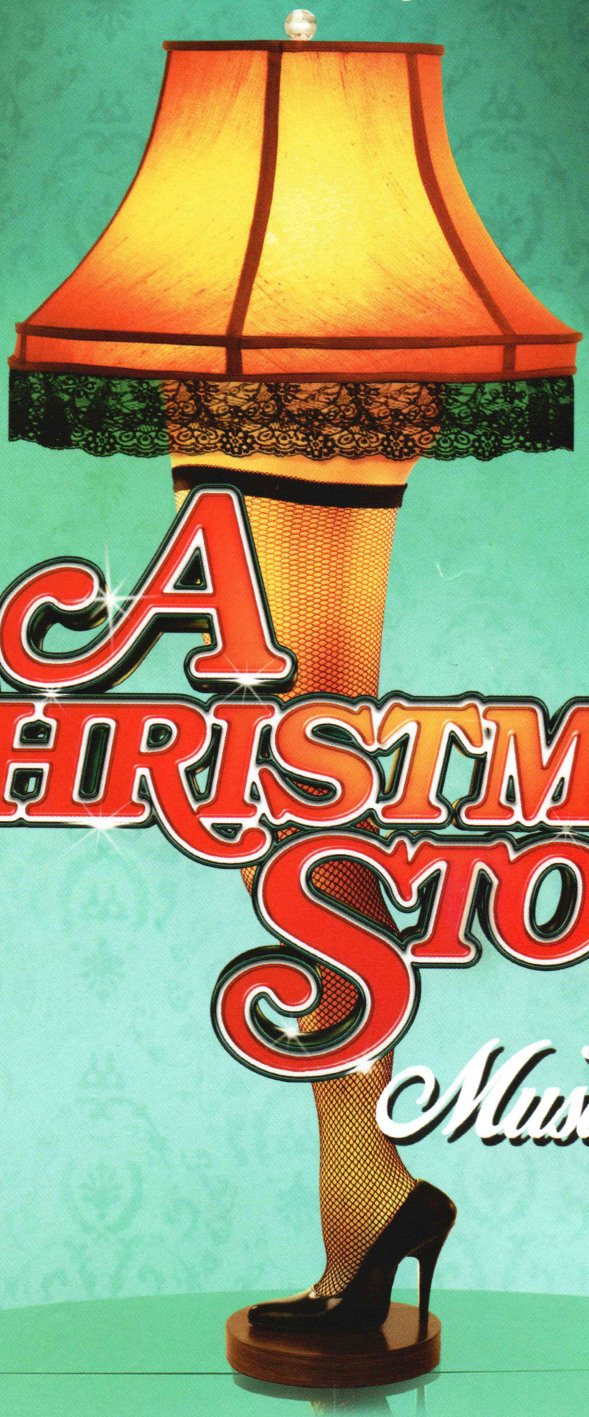
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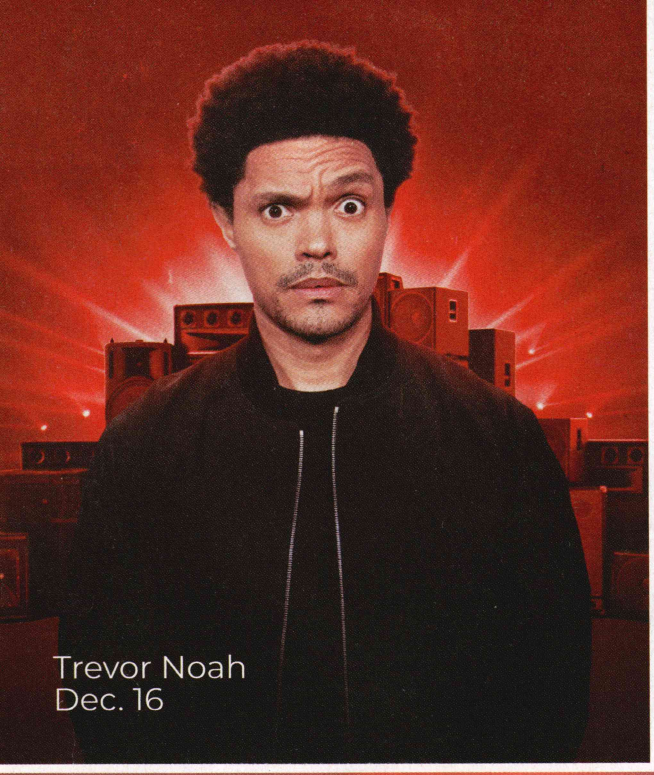
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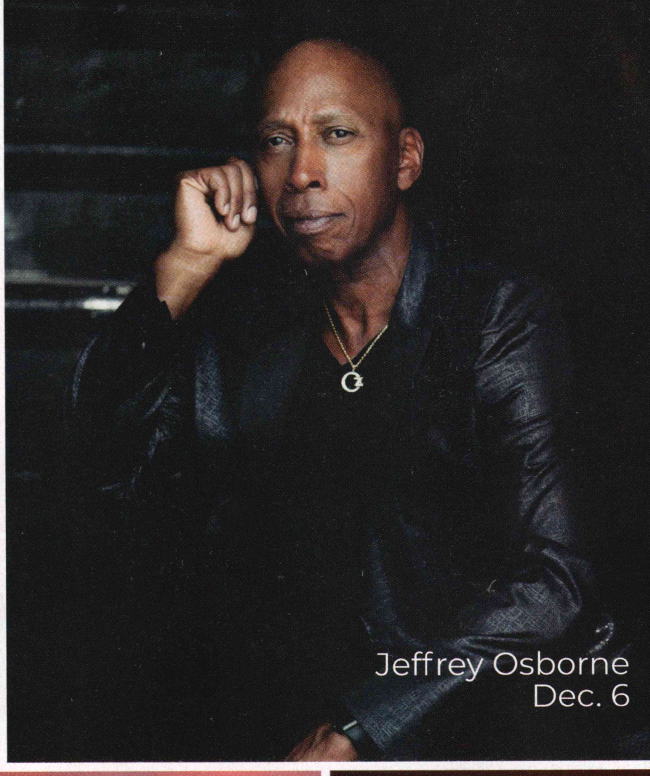
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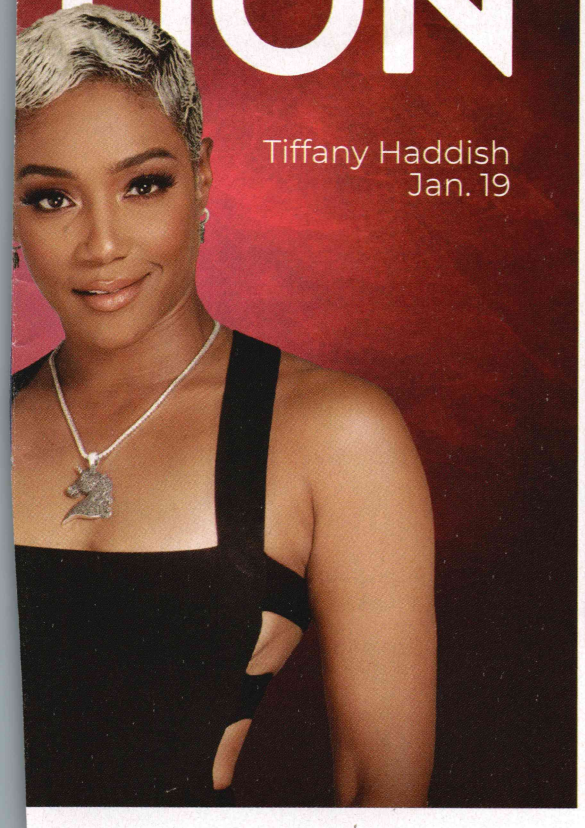
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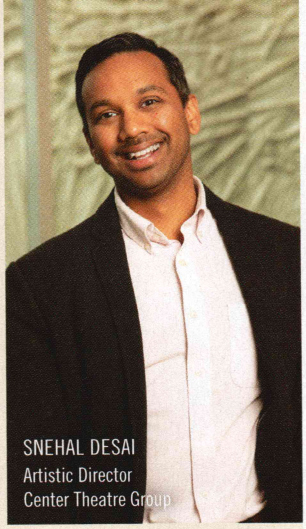
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SNEHAL DESAI
Artistic Director
Center Theatre Group

We are so excited to be offering productions this month perfect for children, families, and anyone who still has that childlike wonder within. If you are joining us at the Ahmanson, we are thrilled to be producing the musical stage adaptation of the classic 1983 holiday film, *A Christmas Story*, which features a catchy holiday score by the acclaimed duo behind *Dear Evan Hansen*, *La La Land*, and *The Greatest Showman*. You are in for a treat as you get to experience Ralphie and the gang in a whole new way this holiday season—just in time to celebrate the film's 40th anniversary for those of you young enough to have caught the movie's premiere in theatres! Meanwhile, at the Douglas, *Dog Man: The Musical*—based on the international best-selling children's book series by Dav Pilkey—has been delighting audiences with the capers of this heroic hound who has a nose for justice.

The holidays are a time for family, tradition, laughter, and eggnog. They are also a time for us to show gratitude and reflect on all that we are lucky to have. I want to thank you all for your support of Center Theatre Group and give a big shout out of gratitude to the artists, board, and staff of Center Theatre Group for their tireless work.

So, with that, here's to all the dreams, all the memories, and all the magic that make up the holiday season. Wishing you and your loved ones the happiest of holidays.

Warmly,

Snehal Desai
Artistic Director

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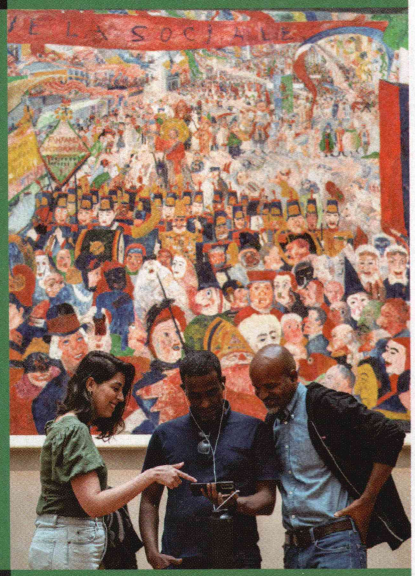


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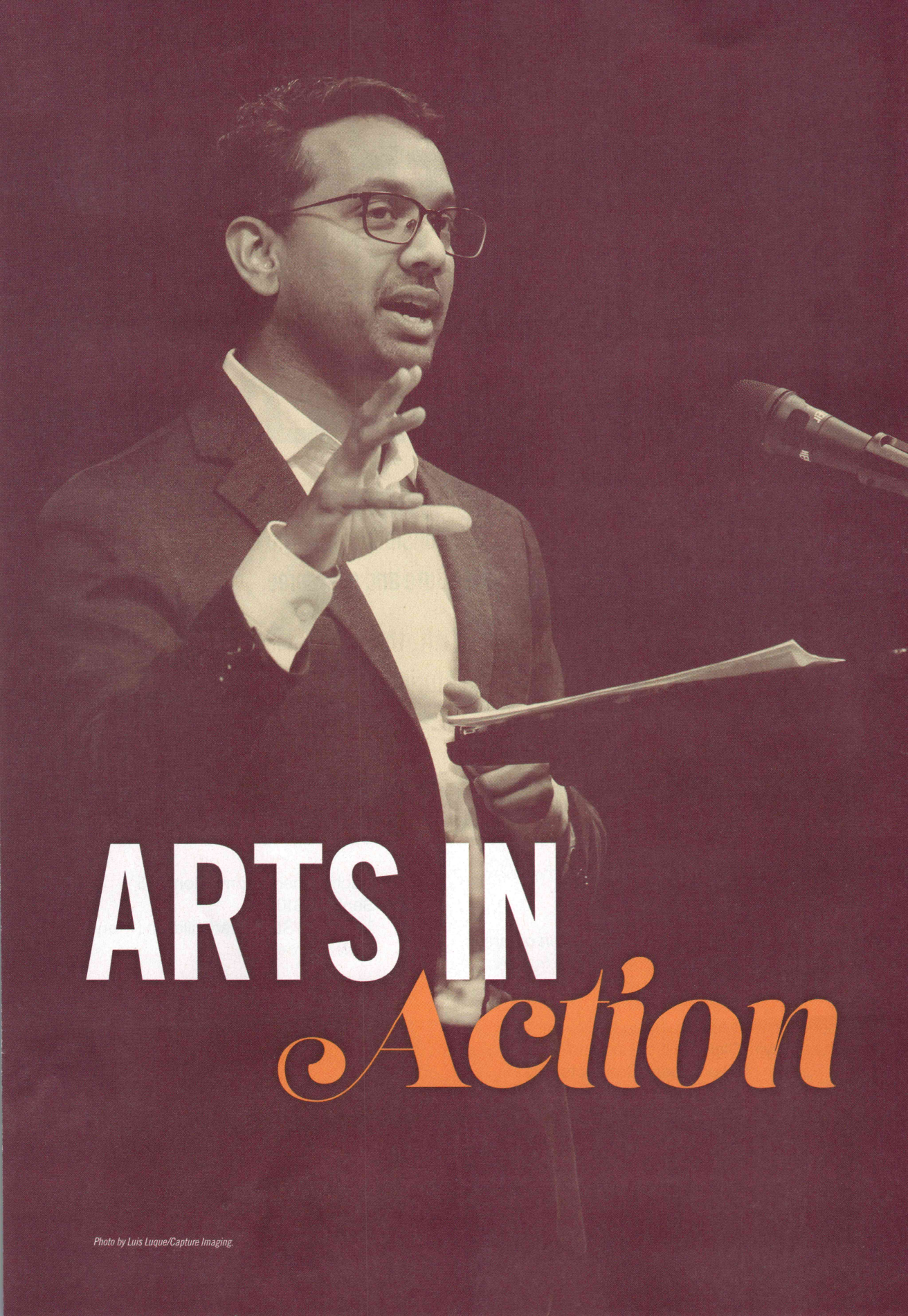
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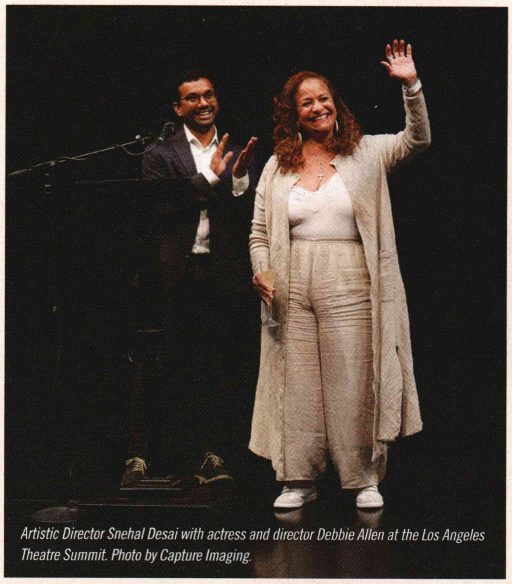
ARTS IN *Action*

Photo by Luis Luque/Capture Imaging.

Since Artistic Director Snehal Desai joined Center Theatre Group this year, he has been involved in a range of events, both at Center Theatre Group and across the nation, to advocate for funds and development in the performing arts sector. Take a look at some of the events this past year with us.

SEPTEMBER 18TH & 19TH

Center Theatre Group hosted the very first Los Angeles Theatre Summit, in which approximately 50 invited theatre funders and leaders gathered at the Center Theatre Group offices in Downtown Los Angeles. During the event, presentations were made by representatives from Californians for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and various other service organizations and theatre leaders from throughout the Los Angeles community. The following night, on September 19th, almost 600 people from dozens of L.A. theatres gathered at the Mark Taper Forum for a community happy hour, which included presentations from arts service organizations and community updates from members of the Los Angeles theatre community.



Artistic Director Snehal Desai with actress and director Debbie Allen at the Los Angeles Theatre Summit. Photo by Capture Imaging.

SEPTEMBER 28TH

Desai joined a group of American theatre makers—including Lin-Manuel Miranda, Phylicia Rashad, and Pasadena Playhouse's Producing Artistic Director Danny Feldman, and more—to advocate for congressional support for regional theatres in Washington. D.C. Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) hosted the group to introduce the Supporting Theater and Generating Economic Activity Act, otherwise known as the STAGE Act, which would provide $500 million in annual assistance over the next five years.



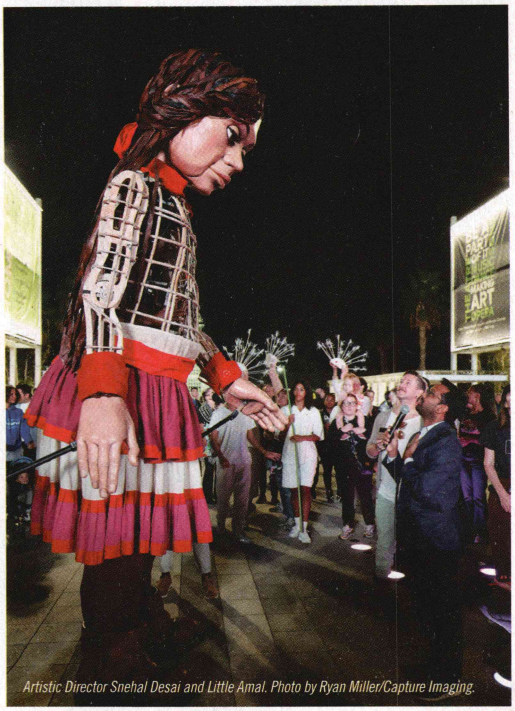
Managing Director/CEO Meghan Pressman and Artistic Director Snehal Desai. Photo by Capture Imaging.

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Photo by Ryan Miller/Capture Imaging.



Artistic Director Snehal Desai and Little Amal. Photo by Ryan Miller/Capture Imaging.

SCAN TO DONATE

Want to be a part of the action? Donations to Center Theatre Group help raise awareness of the needs of the Los Angeles arts community.

OCTOBER 24TH

At the annual Arts for LA State of the Arts Summit, Desai delivered a keynote address about the economic and social barriers that creatives face and how artists can reimagine and revitalize the creative economy through collaboration. The summit featured a range of speakers, from policymakers to artists to activists, to participate in panels and discussions throughout the day. Arts for LA, the organization behind the event, is the only cross-sector and cross-discipline arts advocacy organization in Los Angeles County that connects arts and culture stakeholders across the region.

NOVEMBER 2ND

Center Theatre Group welcomed Little Amal, a 12-foot-tall puppet of a young Syrian refugee, to The Music Center on November 2nd for *Amal's Wish.* This performance was a part of *Amal Walks Across America,* a nationwide journey spanning more than 35 cities and towns, 6,000 miles, and over 300 partners. Organizations dedicated to supporting refugees in Los Angeles, like Miry's List, Newcomers Access Center, Welcome Blanket, Refugee Children Center, and Interfaith Refugee & Immigration Service, joined CTG in Amal's arrival as well. Throughout the performance a variety of performers, dancers, and other artists, took to the plaza to share in making wishes with Amal.

NOVEMBER 18TH & 19TH

REDCAT Los Angeles and KCRW brought a group of experts, activists, cultural organizers, and artists together for two days of performances, conversations, and interventions about the role of art during times of crisis. Desai was once again a featured speaker, and continued to give voice to and support for the arts and arts funding in Los Angeles, throughout the state of California, and across the country.

And this is only the beginning of CTG's next act. Stay tuned for how CTG moves forward in the year to come.

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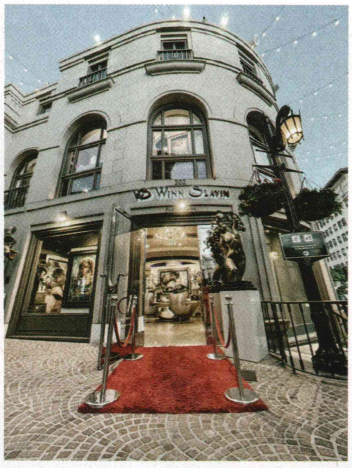
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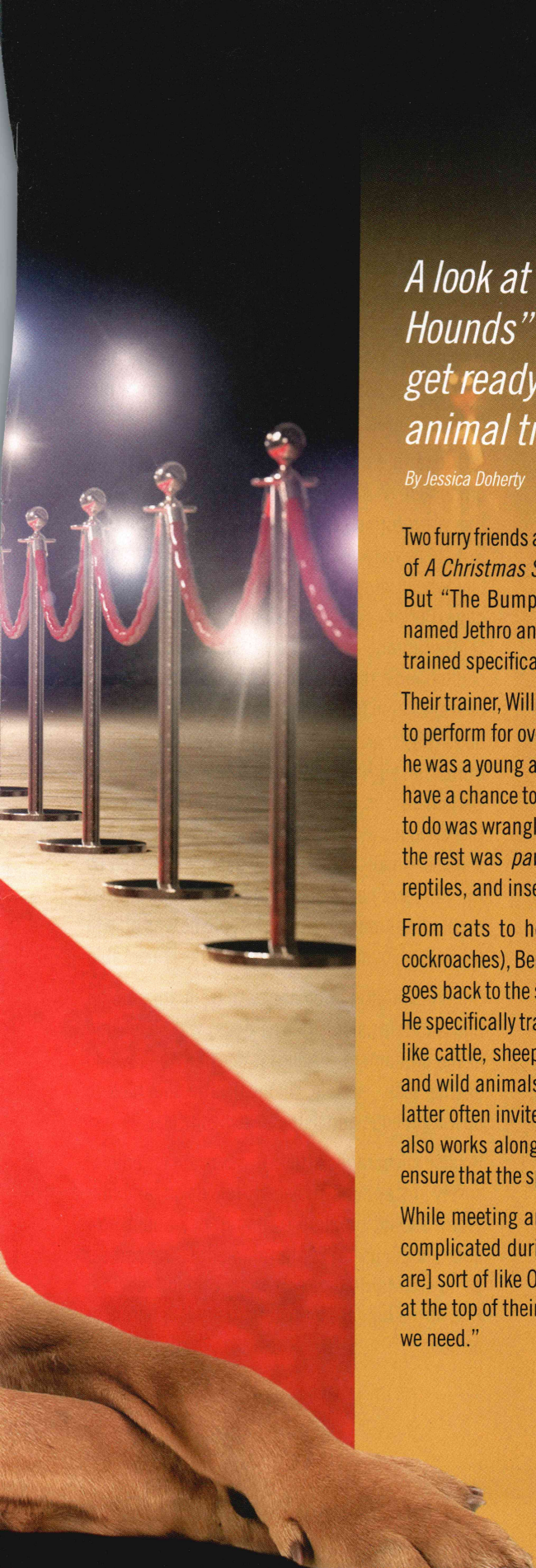
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WHO
LET THE
DOGS
OUT?



A look at how "The Bumpus Hounds" and other animals get ready for the spotlight with animal trainer Bill Berloni.

By Jessica Doherty

Two furry friends are taking the stage in this month's production of *A Christmas Story, The Musical* at the Ahmanson Theatre. But "The Bumpus Hounds," played by two Bloodhounds named Jethro and Reba, are not just regular dogs—they are trained specifically to appear on stage and screen.

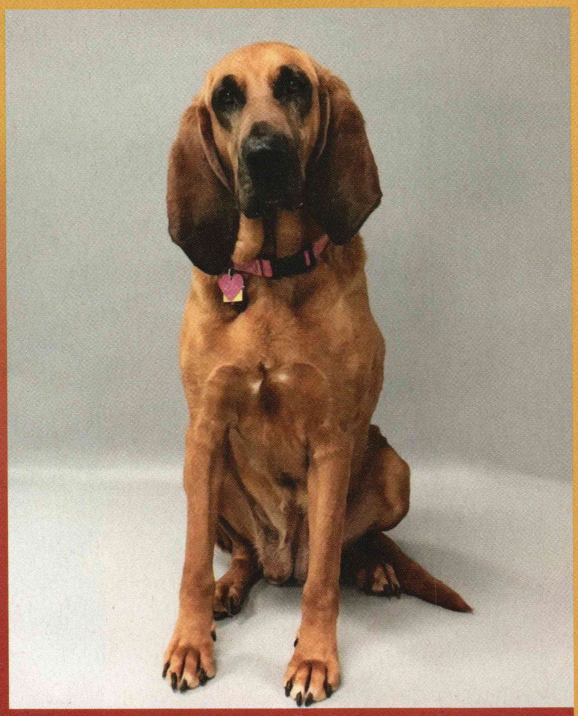
Their trainer, William "Bill" Berloni, has been training animals to perform for over 40 years. His career began in 1977, when he was a young apprentice at the Goodspeed Opera House. To have a chance to perform and gain his Equity card all he had to do was wrangle a dog for a new musical called *Annie.* And the rest was *paw*-story. Now, he trains a variety of animals, reptiles, and insects for theatre, television, and film.

From cats to horses to parakeets to cockroaches (yes, cockroaches), Berloni said that training a live creature usually goes back to the simple concept of meeting their basic needs. He specifically trains animals that are partially domesticated, like cattle, sheep, rabbits, and birds, as opposed to "exotic" and wild animals like bears, big cats, or primates, since the latter often invite harsh techniques and loose standards. He also works alongside animal, insect, and reptile experts to ensure that the specific needs of each unique animal are met.

While meeting an animal's needs sounds simple, it can be complicated during a production or film set. "[The animals are] sort of like Olympic athletes," he said. "They have to be at the top of their game in order to be happy to do the things we need."

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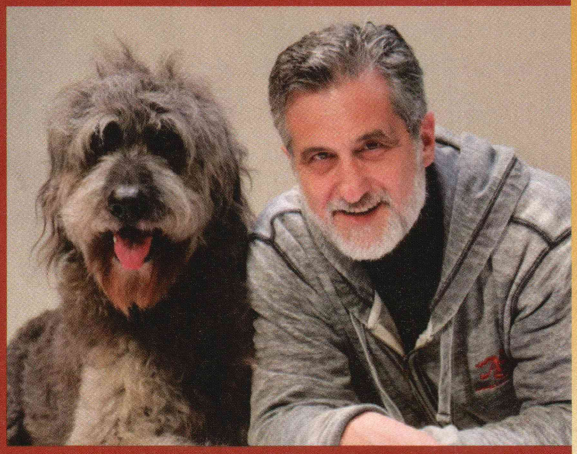
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Reba, one of the bloodhounds in A Christmas Story, The Musical. *Photo courtesy of Bill Berloni.*

"The animals are sort of like Olympic athletes."

–Bill Berloni



Bill Berloni with Bowdie, the titular dog in Because of Winn-Dixie. *Photo by Jenna Berloni.*

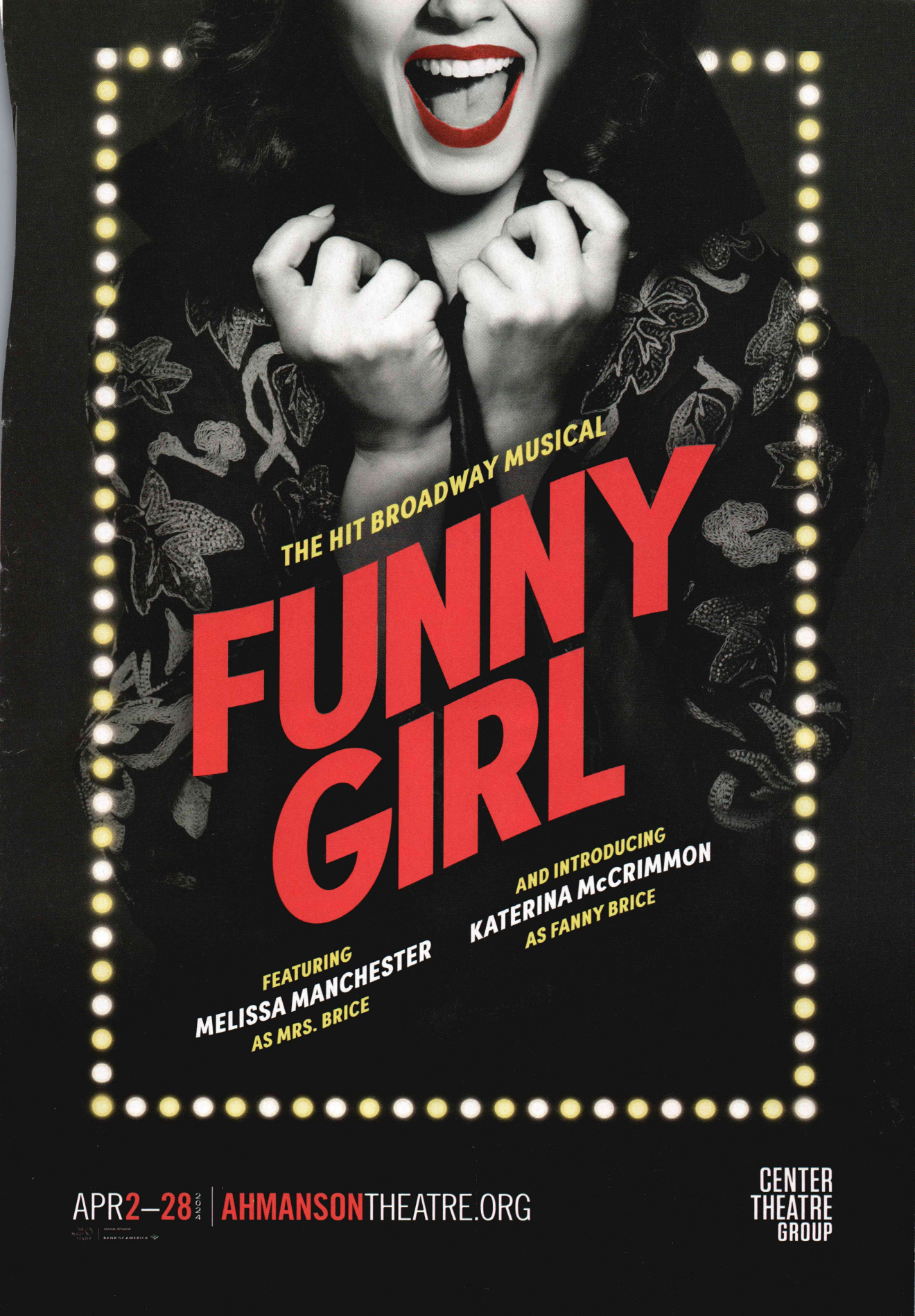
Dogs, in particular, need about 12 to 16 hours of sleep a day. So Berloni makes sure that they are well rested before rehearsal and keeps them mentally and physically stimulated and socialized during their time awake. "When it's time to [train], it can be the best part of their day," he said. "They get all this attention and all these cookies—they go to a place where they're admired not just by me, but by so many other people."

Jethro and Reba appeared in the Broadway production of *A Christmas Story, The Musical,* so they are returning to their roles for this production. But there were two dogs before them, Pete and Lily, who originated the roles. To cast all of these dogs, Berloni said he needed to first assess their temperament—which dogs seemed like they could handle the stressors of traveling and being onstage. From there, they could begin to train. The dogs' big scene involves them eating a holiday dinner straight off of the kitchen table, which Berloni said is a complicated behavior to teach. Bloodhounds in particular are known for their keen sense of smell—they can be easily distracted by the variety of new smells in a theatre on any given night. But through training, he said he was able to teach them to follow their noses to the dinner table.

Berloni said it is often easier to train animals for film and television. "[Movie dogs] will be looking at me off camera—and if it doesn't work, we do another take," he said. "In the theatre, they have to do it right once and listen to someone else."

He also encourages artists to advocate for animal safety precautions in theatre, television, and film. "There should be more transparency about how animals are used in entertainment so we can set some standards that will protect them," he said. "One of the biggest forms of cruelty is ignorance," he said.

continued on page 30


THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL
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CENTER THEATRE GROUP

Helping You Keep the Magic of the Holidays Alive WITHOUT LOSING YOUR SANITY!

By Bobby Martinez

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! It's that wonderful time of the year when we gather in festive spirit and enjoy all the winter season has to offer! With food to prepare and gifts to buy, the holidays can be a bit overwhelming. Last year, we wrote a list of gift recommendations inspired by our productions to help you with your holiday shopping! It seemed to help some of you, so...to help alleviate any holiday stress, we've compiled a gift guide to help you find the perfect gift... again! So, as you prepare to watch the show, sit back and peruse ta list of gifts that are sure to stun the theatre lover-or family friend/ex-in your life!

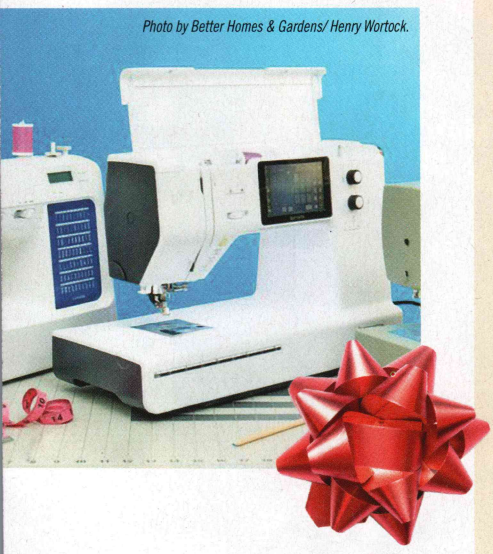


Photo by Better Homes & Gardens/ Henry Wortock.

Kristina Wong, Sweatshop Overlord:

SEWING MACHINE

Pulizter Prize winner Kristina Wong never misses, having performed her hit show, *Kristina Wong, Sweatshop Overlord* to audiences at the Kirk Douglas Theatre. With only her skills and a sewing machine, Wong managed to create a workforce through Facebook that banded together to make masks for those who were in dire need of personal protection equipment during the peak of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The world is your oyster when you have a **sewing machine** by your side, so we suggest gifting one to the crafty person in your life. Start by sewing patterns or tablecloths and learn as you go! You'll be ready if you ever need to sew a mask...and who knows, maybe you, too, will win a Pulitzer Prize.

continued on page 22



POTUS

OR, BEHIND EVERY GREAT DUMBASS ARE SEVEN WOMEN TRYING TO KEEP HIM ALIVE

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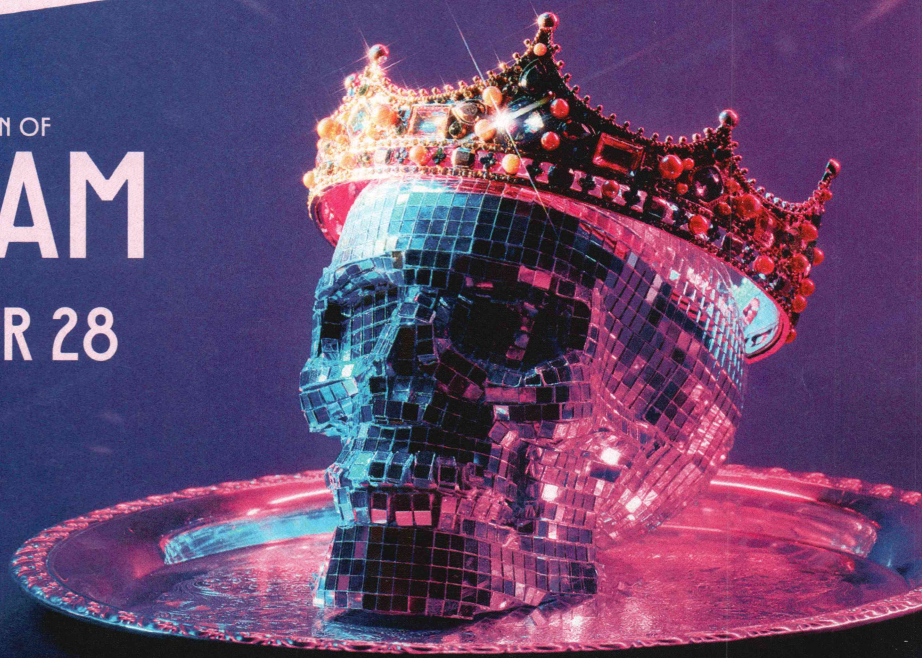
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continued from page 20


Photo by Descanso Gardens

The Secret Garden:

TICKETS TO DESCANSO GARDENS

"Come toooo my gaaaaarden..." Well not our garden, we don't have one. But fans of *The Secret Garden* know the power and beauty of the great outdoors! When Mary Lennox is orphaned, she moves to the countryside to live with her uncle, Archibald Craven, where she encounters a hidden garden that belonged to her departed aunt, Lily. Lennox finds comfort and healing within the garden, and shares the gift with her cousin and uncle, as they all heal from the losses they faced in life. Nature can be a powerful comfort, so we recommend a day at **Descanso Gardens** in La Cañada Flintridge to find peace and joy within the flowers and sunlight.

Fetch Clay, Make Man:

BOXING CLASSES

With the new year comes the annual list of resolutions, and for many that means a gym membership. Personally, the hardest part about exercising is finding that motivation to get into my car and drive to the gym, but there are ways to make it fun! Inspired by *Fetch Clay, Make Man,* we recommend gifting yourself and a friend a **boxing class**! Get that Muhammad Ali physique through a fun course that will introduce you to the world of boxing!


Photo By Daniel Torobekov.



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Our Dear Dead Drug Lord:

OUIJA BOURD (IF YOU'RE INTO THAT)

I'll be the first to admit, I'd never touch a **Ouija Board**. But much like the iconic girls of *Our Dear Dead Drug Lord*, some people are just... into the paranormal. I must warn you, if you find yourself haunted/possessed/in need of The Ghostbusters, that's on you. But for your occult-loving, dark-sided, nonbeliever friend, this may be the best gift you can ever give them.*

**Center Theatre Group is not responsible for any possessions, hauntings, night terrors, or more that may occur if you mess around with a Ouija Board.*

continues on page 36


BUILDING OUR
FUTURE
The Campaign for Colburn
The Colburn School has embarked on an ambitious project to expand world-class training and performance opportunities for both the community and the School. We are honored to partner with Frank Gehry to build a home for the next generation of performing artists in the creative capital of the world.
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JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
LOS ANGELES

Official Card of Center Theatre Group AMERICAN EXPRESS



BONUS PRODUCTION

HADESTOWN

Music, Lyrics & Book by Anaïs Mitchell (she/her)
Developed with & Directed by Rachel Chavkin (she/her)

OCTOBER 3–15, 2023

A CHRISTMAS STORY, THE MUSICAL

Book by Joseph Robinette
Music and Lyrics by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul
Original Direction on Broadway by John Rando
Choreography by Warren Carlyle
Directed by Matt Lenz

DECEMBER 5–31, 2023

MATTHEW BOURNE'S ROMEO + JULIET

Music by Terry Davies based on the
original score by Sergei Prokofiev
Directed and Choreographed by Matthew Bourne
In collaboration with the New Adventures artistic team
North American Premiere

JANUARY 28–FEBRUARY 25, 2024

FUNNY GIRL

Music by Jule Styne
Lyrics by Bob Merrill
Book by Isobel Lennart

APRIL 2-28, 2024

A STRANGE LOOP

Book, Music, And Lyrics by Michael R. Jackson
Choreography by Raja Feather Kelly
Directed by Stephen Brackett
A co-production with American Conservatory Theatre

JUNE 5-30, 2024

CLUE

Written by Sandy Rustin
Additional Material by Hunter Foster and Eric Price
Based on the screenplay by Jonathan Lynn
Original Music by Michael Holland
Based on the 1985 Paramount movie
and the classic Hasbro board game

JULY 30–AUGUST 25, 2024

CENTER THEATRE GROUP



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CENTER THEATRE GROUP

CENTER THEATRE GROUP

SNEHAL DESAI Artistic Director | **MEGHAN PRESSMAN** Managing Director/CEO | **DOUGLAS C. BAKER** Producing Director
GORDON DAVIDSON Founding Artistic Director

Center Theatre Group
By special arrangement with Big League Productions, Inc
Presents

A Christmas Story The Musical

Book by
JOSEPH ROBINETTE

Music and Lyrics By
BENJ PASEK AND JUSTIN PAUL

Based upon the motion picture *A Christmas Story*® 1983 Turner Entertainment Co., distributed by Warner Bros. written by Jean Shepherd, Leigh Brown and Bob Clark and *In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash* by Jean Shepherd.
Produced with permission of Warner Bros. Theatre Ventures, Inc. and Dalfie Entertainment, Inc.

STEVEN-ADAM AGDEPPA ZEKE BERNIER ADDALIE BURNS CHRIS CARSTEN JACK CASEY
JORDAN COATES KAI EDGAR GABBIE FRIED ANDREW GE JULIANE GODFREY JULIA HARNETT
MICHAEL JAMES GRETA REBECCA KLEINMAN KAYDEN ALEXANDER KOSHELEV
TRENT MILLS KYLE MONTGOMERY GABRIEL NAVARRO EMILIE ONG JANE PAPAGEORGE
ERIC PETERSEN JACOB PHAM IZZY PIKE SHELLEY REGNER SABRINA SLOAN CHARLIE STOVER HENRY WITCHER

Scenic Design based upon the Original Broadway Scenic Design by
WALT SPANGLER

Costume Design based on the Original Broadway Costume Design by
ELIZABETH HOPE CLANCY

Lighting Design based on the Original Broadway Lighting Design by
HOWELL BINKLEY

Scenic Design Adaptation by:
MICHAEL CARNAHAN

Ahmanson Theatre Lighting Design by:
CHARLIE MORRISON

Sound Design by:
BRIAN HSIEH

Orchestrations by:
LARRY BLANK

Animal Trainer:
WILLIAM BERLONI

Casting by:
ALISON FRANCK, CSA

Dance Musical Arrangements:
GLEN KELLY

Vocal Arrangements by:
JUSTIN PAUL

Associate Director
MICHAEL RADER

Technical Supervisor:
JAMES BOOK

General Management:
BIG LEAGUE PRODUCTIONS
ZACH KROHN

Production Stage Manager:
JILL GOLD

Executive Producer
DANIEL SHER

Originally Directed on Broadway by:
JOHN RANDO

Associate Choreographer
BROOKE MARTINO

Musical Supervisor:
ANDREW SMITHSON

Choreography by:
WARREN CARLYLE

Directed by
MATT LENZ

Produced by special arrangement with DRAMATIC PUBLISHING, Woodstock, Illinois.

Originally produced on Broadway by:
Gerald Goehring Roy Miller Michael F. Mitri Pat Flicker Addiss Peter Billingsley
Timothy Laczynski Mariano Tolentino Jr Louise Beard Michael Filerman Scott Hart
Allison Eckert Bob Bartner Michael Jenkins Angelo Milionas Bradford W. Smith

DECEMBER 5—31, 2023 **AHMANSON**THEATRE

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Jean Shepherd CHRIS CARSTEN
Ralphie KAI EDGAR
Mother SABRINA SLOAN
Randy HENRY WITCHER
The Old Man ERIC PETERSEN
The Bumpus Hounds REBA, JETHRO
Schwartz KAYDEN ALEXANDER KOSHELEV
Flick JACK CASEY
Esther Jane ADDALIE BURNS
Mary Beth IZZY PIKE
Nancy GRETA REBECCA KLEINMAN
Carol EMILIE ONG
Scut Farkus JORDAN COATES
Grover Dill ZEKE BERNIER
Miss Shields SHELLEY REGNER
Fantasy Villain KYLE MONTGOMERY
Bank Teller KAYDEN ALEXANDER KOSHELEV
Bank Robbers MICHAEL JAMES, GABRIEL NAVARRO
Convict MICHAEL JAMES
Can Can Dancers ADDALIE BURNS, GRETA REBECCA KLEINMAN, IZZY PIKE
Delivery Men GABRIEL NAVARRO, TRENT MILLS
Policeman MICHAEL JAMES
Fireman GABRIEL NAVARRO
Doctor ANDREW GE
Nurse JULIA HARNETT
Flick's Mother GABBIE FRIED
Mobster Tap Specialty ADDALIE BURNS
Santa Claus KYLE MONTGOMERY
Chief Elf GABBIE FRIED
Goggles Kid ZEKE BERNIER
Waiter ANDREW GE
Waitress EMILIE ONG
Neighbors, Shoppers, Parents, Students
Townspeople, Elves, and Others ZEKE BERNIER, ADDALIE BURNS, JACK CASEY, JORDAN COATES, GABBIE FRIED, ANDREW GE, JULIANE GODFREY, JULIA HARNETT, MICHAEL JAMES, GRETA REBECCA KLEINMAN, KAYDEN ALEXANDER KOSHELEV, TRENT MILLS, KYLE MONTGOMERY, GABRIEL NAVARRO, EMILIE ONG, JACOB PHAM, IZZY PIKE, SHELLEY REGNER, CHARLIE STOVER

Please turn off all electronic devices such as cellular phones and watch alarms. The use of any recording device, either audio or video, and the taking of photographs, with or without flash, are strictly prohibited.

CAST

STAGE MANAGERS

MICHELLE BLAIR

EDWARD KHRIS FERNANDEZ

DANCE CAPTAIN

JANE PAPAGEORGE

SWINGS

STEVEN-ADAM AGDEPPA, JANE PAPAGEORGE, JACOB PHAM

UNDERSTUDIES

For Jean Shepherd —TRENT MILLS

For Ralphie—CHARLIE STOVER

For Mother—JULIANE GODFREY

For Randy—ZEKE BERNIER, JACOB PHAM

For The Old Man—TRENT MILLS

For Schwartz—JACK CASEY, CHARLIE STOVER

For Flick—JACOB PHAM

For Scut Farkus—JACK CASEY, KAYDEN ALEXANDER KOSHELEV, CHARLIE STOVER

For Grover Dill—CHARLIE STOVER, JACOB PHAM

For Miss Shields—JANE PAPAGEORGE

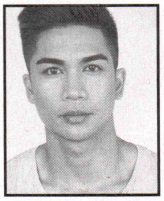
For Santa Claus—TRENT MILLS

For Waiter—JACOB PHAM

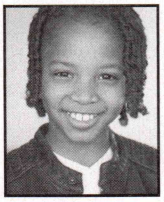
THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION.

Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of management. Patrons with disabilities: wheelchair seating is available in a variety of theatre locations. When ordering tickets, please indicate any special needs. For our hearing-impaired guests, the theatre is equipped with listening devices; please contact an usher for assistance.

CAST



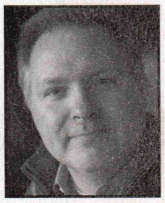
STEVEN-ADAM AGDEPPA



ZEKE BERNIER



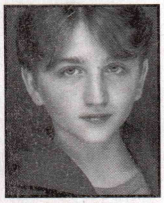
ADDALIE BURNS



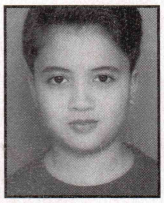
CHRIS CARSTEN



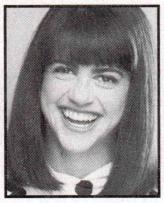
JACK CASEY



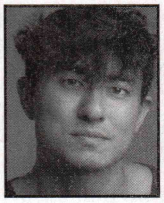
JORDAN COATES



KAI EDGAR



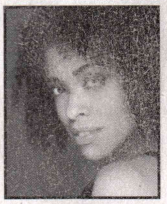
GABBIE FRIED



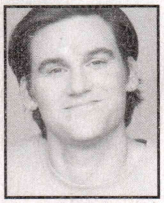
ANDREW GE



JULIANE GODFREY



JULIA HARNETT



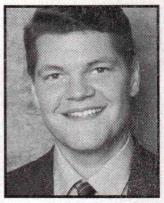
MICHAEL JAMES



GRETA REBECCA KLEINMAN



KAYDEN ALEXANDER KOSHELEV



TRENT MILLS



KYLE MONTGOMERY



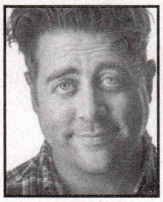
GABRIEL NAVARRO



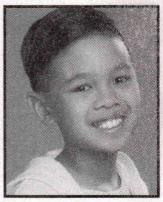
EMILIE ONG



JANE PAPAGEORGE



ERIC PETERSEN



JACOB PHAM



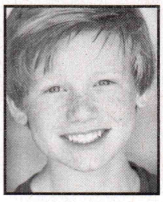
IZZY PIKE



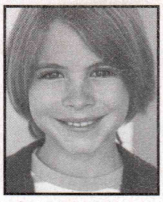
SHELLEY REGNER



SABRINA SLOAN



CHARLIE STOVER



HENRY WITCHER

SCENES AND MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Overture..... Orchestra

Prologue: Outside radio station WOR, New York City/the radio studio desk — Christmas Eve, Several Years Ago

Scene 1: The Parker Family House and Higbee's Department Store — December 1, 1940
"It All Comes Down to Christmas" Ralphie, The Parkers, Ensemble
"Red Ryder Carbine Action BB Gun" Ralphie, Jean
"It All Comes Down to Christmas (Reprise)" Ralphie, Ensemble

Scene 2: The Parker Family House — The Next Day
"The Genius on Cleveland Street" The Old Man, Mother

Scene 3: A Path Leading to School — Soon Afterward
"When You're A Wimp" Kids

Scene 4: The Classroom — A Few Minutes Later
"Ralphie to the Rescue!" Ralphie, Miss Shields, The Old Man, Mother, Randy, Ensemble

Scene 5: The Parker Family House — A Week Later
"What a Mother Does" Mother
"A Major Award" The Old Man, Mother, Neighbors

Scene 6: The Parker Family House — Early Evening of December 13, 1940

Scene 7: On the Road — Immediately Following
"Parker Family Singalong" The Parkers

Scene 8: The Parker Family House — Late That Night
"Act I Finale" Ralphie, Mother, Old Man, Randy, Ensemble

ACT II

Entr'Acte. Orchestra

Scene 1: The Schoolyard and The Classroom
"Sticky Situation" Ralphie, Flick, Schwartz, Kids, Miss Shields, Nurse, Flick's Mom, Fireman, Policeman, Doctor

Scene 2: Fantasy 1930's Speakeasy
"You'll Shoot Your Eye Out" Miss Shields, Kids

Scene 3: A Path From School — Immediately Following

Scene 4: The Parker Family House — A Few Minutes Later
"Just Like That" Mother

Scene 5: Santa's Station at Higbee's — Christmas Eve
"At Higbee's" Elves
"Up on Santa's Lap" Santa Claus, Elves, Ralphie, Randy, Kids

Scene 6: The Parker Family House — Christmas Eve
"Before The Old Man Comes Home" The Parkers

Scene 7: The Boys' Bedroom
"Somewhere Hovering Over Indiana" Ralphie, Randy, Kids

Scene 8: The Parker Family House — Christmas Morning
"It's Christmas" Ralphie, Randy
"Ralphie to the Rescue (Reprise)" Ralphie, Ensemble

Scene 9: A Chinese Restaurant and the Town - Christmas Evening
"A Christmas Story" The Parkers and Full Company

ORCHESTRA

MUSIC DIRECTOR, KEYBOARD 2—ANDREW SMITHSON
ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR, KEYBOARD 1—BRAD GARDNER
REED I—SAL LOZANO
REED 2—NOELLE FABIAN
REED 3—RUSTY HIGGINS
TRUMPET 1—DAN FORNERO
TRUMPET 2—JAMES FORD
TROMBONE 1—RAUL NAVARETTE
BASS TROMBONE—STEVEN TRAPANI
BASS—WILLIAM JOHNSON
DRUMS—BRIAN MALONE
PERCUSSION—JORDAN CURCURUTO
KEYBOARD SUB—JENNIFER LIN
MUSIC CONTRACTOR—ROBERT PAYNE

WHO'S WHO

STEVEN-ADAM AGDEPPA *(Swing; he/they).* Steven is excited to make their Ahmanson stage debut! Credits: *On This Side of the World, Mamma Mia* (East West Players); *Grease, Cats, Newsies, In the Heights* (La Mirada); *Invincible: The Pat Benetar and Neil Geraldo Musical; The Music Man* (Musical Theater West). Gratitude to the creative team, Go2Talent, and Nicky!

ZEKE BERNIER *(Grover Dill, U/S Randy, Ensemble; he/him).* Zeke is excited to be a part of *A Christmas Story* at the Ahmanson. Zeke loves performing and began in musical theatre at age 5. He has worked on film, television, commercials, print/internet projects, theatre, and hosted events. Zeke enjoys making videos, martial arts, dance parties, and being with his friends.

ADDALIE BURNS *(Esther Jane, Tap Specialty; she/her)* is delighted to be making her CTGLA debut! Credits: *Music Man* (Amaryllis) (Broadway at Music Circus), *Carousel* (Broadway at Music Circus), the National Philharmonic, American Pops Orchestra, Birdland Jazz Club, New York Theatre Workshop. "Thank you Luke Hawkins, Noah J. Ricketts, Annette Tanner/ Broadway Dreams Foundation." IG:@tappingadds

CHRIS CARSTEN (*Jean Shepherd, he/him).* Mr. Carsten is a relatively unknown commodity who is absolutely delighted to continue a long tradition of portraying Jean Shepherd over the holidays! Since 2014, he has performed for audiences across the country as the iconic non disembodied narrator of the musical version of this beloved Christmas classic, perhaps more than any other actor to date! Over the years he has appeared in touring productions spanning the globe. Some of his favorite roles include John Adams in *1776*, Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*, and the title role in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. He would like to thank Maisie, Evangeline, and Finley for their love and support.

JACK CASEY *(Flick, Ensemble, U/S Scut Farkus; he/him).* Jack has appeared on Broadway as The Little Boy Edgar in *Ragtime's 25th Anniversary Concert*. Rufus in the world premiere of the Ahrens/Flaherty musical, *Knoxville* at Asolo Rep, directed by the late Frank Galati. Original Cast Album of *Knoxville*. TV/FILM: Dylan Shakes, Amazon Prime's *Harlan Coben's Shelter, Bruno, The Nonnas, Law & Order: SVU, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.* Jack is honored to make his Ahmanson debut, and thanks his brother Finn Douglas, his mother Annie, his dad, Miss Bev, Jackie Reid, everyone in his Christmas Story Family, and the magic of Christmas. @jackcaseyactor

JORDAN COATES *(Scut Farkus, Ensemble).* Jordan is thrilled to be telling this story again at the Ahmanson! Theatre: *Evita* ACT; *Billy Elliot* (Michael) Rhinebeck Theater; *A Christmas Story* (Schwartz) Tuacahn and Engeman Theater. TV/VO: *Invasion* (Jack), Apple TV+; *Mr. Robot* (Kyle), USA; Awkwafina's *Nora is From Queens* (Team Cpt #2), Comedy Central; *Paw Patrol* (Rubble), Nick Jr. Mom, Dad, Jack, this is for you. @Jordancoates

KAI EDGAR *(Ralphie, he/him).* Excited for this bucket list role! Favorite credits: *Charlie & the Chocolate Factory* (National Tour), *The Hours* (Metropolitan Opera), *The Secret Garden* (Broadway at Music Circus), *Pelléas et Mélisande* (LA Opera, Santa Fe Opera), *Chicago Fire, Firebuds, Santiago of the Seas.* Thanks to the creative team, DDO Kids, Station 3, and his amazing coaches. @kaijosephedgar

GABBIE FRIED *(Ensemble, she/her).* Center Theatre Group: debut. Regional: Enid in *Legally Blonde, Grease, Hairspray* (KC Starlight), *Footloose* (Cortland Rep), *Spring Awakening* (Hangar Theatre), *Les Miserables, The Little Mermaid* (Sharon Playhouse). TV: *Drew Barrymore Show.* Gabbie's a Jewish Comedian from Kansas City, she now performs comedy around L.A. Education: NYU Tisch (Atlantic), UCB, and Groundlings. @goobiefried

ANDREW GE *(Waiter, Ensemble; he/him).* Theatre: *Mamma Mia!* (East West Players), *Cinderella* (5-Star Theatricals), *Shanghai's World Emporium* (Huntington Library), *Arcane* (Secret Cinema/Riot Games). TV/Film: *The Slumber Party* (Yo Fiesto), *Blue Suit* (Wong Fu Presents), *Beneath The Banyan Tree* (VOD). Voice: *The Devil's Plan* (Netflix), *Dream* (Netflix), *Girl From Nowhere* (Netflix). Certified matcha snob. @thisisge

JULIANE GODFREY *(Ensemble, U/S Mother; she/her)* Broadway: *SpongeBob SquarePants: The Musical* (OBC Dance Captain/Swing). National Tours: *Beetlejuice*, Lincoln Center's *My Fair Lady, Something Rotten!* Regional: Goodspeed, Paper Mill Playhouse, Arena Stage, Sacramento Music Circus, and more. Solo Show: *I Won't Dance (Don't Make Me Sing)* (Bourbon Room). Arts educator, Maker of Art + Heart, UCLA alum. @julianegodfrey

JULIA HARNETT *(Ensemble, she/her).* Recently seen in *Guys & Dolls* at The Kennedy Center and *Cabaret* at Barrington Stage. Selected Theatre Credits: *Chicago* (Fulton Theatre), *In The Heights* (Arts Club). Selected Television/Film Credits: *Schmigadoon* (AppleTV+ Season's 1 & 2), *FBI* (CBS), *Billions* (Showtime), *Power* (Starz), *The Other Two* (Comedy Central), *Psych* (USA), *In The Heights* (Warner Bros.), and *Christmas Waltz* (Hallmark).Thank you: Tyler, Jaelen, Cocoa, JimmyD., Gmo, DGRW crew, Maritza, Melissa. @juliaharnett

MICHAEL JAMES *(Elf, Ensemble; he/him).* CTG debut! Regional: Musical Theater West *(The Wizard of Oz)*, Goodspeed Opera House *(Bye Bye Birdie)*, Pittsburgh CLO (*Altar Boyz, Newsies, Mamma Mia!),* Maltz Jupiter Theater *(West Side Story, How to Succeed…, Chicago)*, Sacramento Music Circus *(Mamma Mia!)*, and McCoy Rigby Entertainment *(Newsies, Mamma Mia!* Up next: *Mystic Pizza).* Television: *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel.* @heyitsmichaeljamesbrown

GRETA REBECCA KLEINMAN *(Nancy, Ensemble; she/her).* Greta Rebecca is thrilled to make her debut at the Ahmanson Theatre in *A Christmas Story.* Credits: *Matilda* (Matilda), *A Christmas Carol* (Tiny Tim). Heartfelt thank you to Franck Casting, ACS Team, Stewart Talent, Lisa Calli, Thommie Retter, Wright Way, and Alex Renee'- Davies. Love to my family and friends. My Daddy in heaven, I did it! Psalm 149:3.

KAYDEN ALEXANDER KOSHELEV *(Schwartz, Ensemble; he/him).* Kayden is thrilled to be making his debut with CTG and the Ahmanson Theatre! Kayden has an array of TV, film, voiceover, commercial, and musical theatre credits. Most recently, he starred as Oliver in *Oliver!* with 5-Star Theatricals, sung "Hallelujah" in Kevin Hart's *Me Time* on Netflix, and is part of Zack Snyder's film *Rebel Moon*, premiering in December. Kayden thanks his amazing family and team for the unconditional love and support that allows him to live out his dreams. IG: @kaydenkoshelev_official

TRENT MILLS *(Ensemble, U/S Jean Shepherd, U/S Old Man, U/S Santa Claus; he/him).* Trent is beaming with gratitude to be making his CTG debut! International Tour: *Ash in Evil Dead the Musical.* TV: *Little America* (Apple TV), *Tower of God* (HBO). Favorite Regional Credits: *Shrek* (Shrek), *Young Frankenstein* (The Monster), *Music Man* (Marcellus), *Cruel Intentions the Musical* (Greg). Follow along: @Gianttrent

KYLE MONTGOMERY *(Santa Claus, Ensemble; he/they).* International Tour: *Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (Hermey). National Tour: *The Pout-Pout Fish* (PSM). Regional: DeafWest (PSM), Actors Co-Op (Producer), Uptown Players, Lyric Stage, WaterTower Theatre, Circle Theatre, Theatre Three, StageWest. MT Adjunct @ Fullerton College. BFA/TCU. MFA/SDSU. AEA. For private vocal/acting coaching - @frostactor (IG). raisin & boo <3

GABRIEL NAVARRO *(Ensemble, he/him).* Grateful for his Ahmanson debut! Selected credits: MTW's *R&H's Cinderella* (Prince Topher), SDMT's *42nd Street* (Billy Lawlor), MTG's *Follies* (Young Buddy), *Brigadoon* (Charlie Dalrymple), The Getty Villa, The 5th Avenue Theatre, Tuacahn, and MRE-La Mirada. Currently attending USC's School of Dramatic Arts (BFA in Musical Theatre) Fight On! @gabrielnavarrojr gabrielnavarrojr.com

EMILIE ONG *(Waitress, Ensemble; she/her)* is thrilled to be part of *A Christmas Story.* Credits include *The Sound of Music* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (McCoy Rigby Entertainment). Shoutouts to Christin, Megan, VoH, BAS, BAA, and BFF Aldo. Thank you Five Star Talent Management, DDO Artists Agency, family, and God! Her theatre-loving grandma is watching from Heaven! @emilie.sy.ong

JANE PAPAGEORGE *(Swing, U/S Miss Shields; she/her).* Recently: Val - *A Chorus Line, Sarah Palin - 44: The Obama Musical.* Past credits: Hollywood Bowl's *HAIR* and *A Chorus Line;* Jamie Leigh Lee - *Scary Musical the Musical!*; Princess Anna - *Frozen: Live at the Hyperion*; Anytime Annie - *42nd Street*; April – *Company; Cabaret; Spamalot; General Hospital; Butterflies of Love.* KMR Talent @ janepapageorge

ERIC PETERSEN *(The Old Man, he/him).* Eric Petersen has worked extensively on television and the Broadway stage. TV: *Kevin Can F*** Himself* (Kevin), *High Desert, Kirstie, Madagascar: A Little Wild* (Emmy nomination for his role as Ant'ney), Guest Stars: *The Big Bang Theory, Modern Family, Chicago Fire*, and many more. Film: Oscar Nominated Coen Bros. *Ballad of Buster Scruggs.* Broadway: *Shrek The Musical, School of Rock, Escape to Margaritaville,* and *Peter and the Starcatcher.* Co-host of the #1 Christmas podcast *Christmas Countdown Show.* Love to Lisa, Sophie, and Miles. Graduate of Bradley University. @ericpete Insta @theportlygentleman Fashion Insta.

JACOB PHAM *(Ensemble, Swing, U/S Flick, U/S Randy, U/S Grover Dill, U/S/ Waiter; he/him)* is a vibrant young actor, singer, dancer, and pianist. Theatre: *All My Sons* (Bert) Tampa Repertory Theatre; *The Lion King, Jr.* (Young Simba) Ovations Theatre. TV: *Sesame Street.* Voiceover: Disney Jr. and Nick Jr. Special thanks to Lisa Calli, DDO artists agency, Orlando Pena, Emilia Sargent, and his family for believing in him. @JacobPhamOfficial

IZZY PIKE *(Mary Beth, Ensemble; she/her)* is thrilled to be a part of *A Christmas Story*! Special thanks to my family for their endless support and encouragement! Credits: *ANNIE* NATIONAL TOUR. Thank you to Ivy Artists Management, DDO Artists Agency, Valerie Gould, and John and Bonnie Ryerson. "Never give up on your dreams!" @theizzybizz

SHELLEY REGNER *(Miss Shields, Ensemble; she/her).* CTG's Ahmanson Theatre debut! Film/TV: *Pitch Perfect* franchise (Universal), *Underdeveloped* (Tubi). Nat'l Tour: Disney *DCappella* (debut album). Regional Credits: *Bronies!* (world premiere), *Company* (5 Star Theatricals), *Cruel Intentions Musical, Tick, Tick…Boom!* (After Hours Theatre Co.), *Beauty and the Beast in Concert* (Hollywood Bowl). @shelleyregner

SABRINA SLOAN (*Mother, she/her).* Most recently starred in *King Liz* at the Geffen following a four-year run as Angelica Schuyler in *Hamilton* (opposite Lin Manuel Miranda). OBC: *Hairspray, Catch Me If You Can, Motown the Musical*, 1st National Tour: *In the Heights.* TV/Film: *Hacks, All Rise, Ode to Joy, Blindspot, Mysteries of Laura, Boston Legal.* Graduate of Northwestern University. Merry Merry and Love to Q+J.

CHARLIE STOVER *(U/S Ralphie, Ensemble, U/S Others; he/him).* Charlie recently completed a 6-month run as Charlie

Bucket in *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* at Tuacahn. Offstage, he has recurred on *Yellowstone*, and recently made his Cannes Film Festival debut in *Riddle of Fire*. Charlie would like to thank CTG, his parents, family, and friends for their endless support. @charliesstover

HENRY WITCHER *(Randy)* is excited to make his Ahmanson debut! TV Credits: *Lone Star: 9-1-1, Kindred*, and Hulu's *The New Nanny*. Voiceover: Netflix's *Gabby's Dollhouse*, Disney's *Firebuds*, and *Robogobo*. Henry is a session singer and member of the Los Angeles Children's Chorus. Thanks to my family, Baraka May, DDOKids, DPN, and Sherry Kayne!

JILL GOLD *(Production Stage Manager, she/her)* began her career at the Taper in 1983 and is happy to be back at CTG 40 years later! In between, she stage managed over 250 productions, including 6 national tours. Jill teaches at Occidental, UCLA, and USC, using her book *Stage Management* by Lawrence Stern and Jill Gold.

MICHELLE BLAIR *(Stage Manager, she/her)* has enjoyed a long history of stage managing in Los Angeles and has worked extensively with Center Theatre Group on over forty productions at their three theatres. Other favorites include *A Christmas Carol* First National Tour, *The Pee-wee Herman Show* at Club Nokia, *A Long Bridge Over Deep Waters* with Cornerstone Theater Company, *Henry IV* with Shakespeare Center Los Angeles, *Jersey Boys* in Las Vegas, and *Eurydice* and *La Traviata* with the Los Angeles Opera. Graduate of the University of Southern California and the University of Amsterdam. Mom to fifteen-year-old Liam and eleven-year-old Imogen. For Susie Walsh.

EDWARD KHRIS FERNANDEZ *(Stage Manager, he/him).* Regional: *The Engagement Party* at The Geffen Playhouse; *On This Side of the World, Interstate, Vietgone* at East West Players; *Clyde's* at The Mark Taper Forum; *Clyde's* at The Goodman Theatre; *In The Heights, Songs From The Border* at The Colorado Fine Arts Center; *The Garden* at La Jolla Playhouse.

JOSEPH ROBINETTE *(Book)* is a 2013 Tony Award nominee and Drama Desk Award nominee and the award-winning author of fifty-five published plays and musicals. His works have been produced in all fifty states and in seventeen foreign countries. Twelve of his plays have been translated into foreign languages. His plays have been produced by Lincoln Center, Pittsburgh Playhouse, Barter Theatre, Laguna Playhouse, Goodman Theatre and the BBC, among others. Robinette collaborated with E.B.White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*, and he wrote the musical version with composer Charles Strouse.

BENJ PASEK AND JUSTIN PAUL *(Lyrics/Music/Arrangements)* are the Tony, Oscar, and Golden Globe-winning songwriting team behind the Broadway musicals *Dear Evan Hansen* (Tony, Drama Desk Award, Obie Award, Outer Critics Circle Award, Helen Hayes Award) and *A Christmas Story, The Musical* (Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle Award nominations). Other musicals include *Dogfight*, (Lucille Lortel Award winner, Drama League, Outer Critics Circle, London Evening Standard Awards nominations), *James and The Giant Peach*, and *Edges*. Film projects include: *La La Land* (Lionsgate); *Trolls* (Dreamworks Animation). Upcoming film projects include *The Greatest Showman* (FOX); *Snow White* (Walt Disney Pictures); *Medusa* (Sony Pictures Animation); *Aladdin* (Walt Disney Pictures). TV credits include *Smash, Sesame Street, The Flash* and *Johnny and the Sprites*, and Fox's upcoming *A Christmas Story Live!*. Additional honors: Richard Rodgers Award for Musical Theatre (American Academy of Arts and Letters); ASCAP Richard Rodgers New Horizons Award; Jonathan Larson Award. Both are graduates of the University of Michigan Musical Theatre program and members of the Dramatists Guild of America, Inc.

JEAN SHEPHERD *(Originating Author).* One of the most nostalgic, humorous storytellers of his day, Shepherd wrote for several magazines and his articles were published in a series of books including *The America of George Ade, In God We Trust: All Others Pay Cash, A Fistful of Fig Newtons* and *The Ferrari in the Bedroom*. Shepherd's radio broadcasting career began in Cincinnati in 1948. He eventually moved to WOR Radio in New York. He performed entirely without scripts. From 1971 to 1994, Shepherd became a screenwriter, writing and producing numerous television and cinema works. In 2005, Shepherd was posthumously inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame and the Broadcast Cable Hall of Fame.

JOHN RANDO *(Original Broadway Direction).* Broadway credits include the currently highly acclaimed revival of *On The Town, A Christmas Story, The Wedding Singer, Urinetown* (Tony and Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Director), *A Thousand Clowns* and Neil Simon's *The Dinner Party*. His recent Off-Broadway credits include this season's *Lives of the Saints* (Primary Stages), *The Heir Apparent* (2014 SDCF Calloway Award for Direction – Classic Stage Company), *All in the Timing* (Primary Stages – 2013 Obie Award for Direction), and *The Toxic Avenger*, among many others. He directed the Encores! Productions of *Little Me, It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's Superman, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, On the Town, Damn Yankee, Face the Music, Strike Up the Band, Do Re Mi, The Pajama Game* and *Of Thee I Sing*. He also directed the staged performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel at the New York Philharmonic.

MATT LENZ *(Director).* Broadway: *Hairspray, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Catch Me If You Can, The Velocity of Autumn* (Associate Director on original productions), Disney's *Beauty and the Beast* (Resident Director). Off-Broadway: *Pageant: The Musical* (Drama Desk nom.), *The Irish Curse, Idaho! The Comedy Musical, The Great Daisy Theory, Fingers and Toes,* and *Alan Ball's Tense Guy.* National Tours: *Charlie...and the Chocolate Factory, The Sound of Music, A Christmas Story: The Musical, Cheers: Live on Stage, Catch Me If You Can, The Who's Tommy,* and numerous *Hairspray* companies. International: *The Sound of Music* Global Tour (current), *Charlie...* in Australia and productions of *Hairspray* in Australia, South Africa, the U.K., Toronto, and Germany. Regional: Numerous plays and musicals at the Ahmanson, Paper Mill Playhouse, George Street Playhouse, the MUNY, Ogunquit Playhouse, La Mirada, Cape Playhouse, North Carolina Theatre, Maltz Jupiter Theater, Forestburgh Playhouse, Zach Theatre, Gulfshore Playhouse, Casa Manana. Matt is the Founding Artistic Director of the annual In The Works ~ In The Woods Festival of new plays and musicals. mattlenzdirector.com @magicmattlenz

WARREN CARLYLE *(Choreographer, he/him)* is an Emmy Nominated, Tony Award winning Director/Choreographer: Most recently choreographed the Tony Award nominated revival of *The Music Man* on Broadway. Warren has been nominated for two Tony Awards, seven Drama Desk Awards, and an Emmy award. He's won a Tony Award (*After Midnight*), two Outer Critics Circle Awards, a Drama Desk Award and the prestigious Astaire Award for choreography. Current Productions: *Barry Manilow's Harmony* (Broadway).

BROOKE MARTINO *(Associate Choreographer, she/her).* Choreography Credits: *A Christmas Story* (National Tour), *Happy Days the Musical* (Broadway World Award: Best Choreography), *Marvelous Wonderettes, Grease, and Baritoned.* Performer Credits: *A Christmas Story, Jersey Boys, Priscilla: Queen of the Desert, The Great American Trailer Park Musical, Catch Me If You Can, A Chorus Line, Hairspray, 42nd Street,* and *RENT.* #brookeisgramless Ballchange

MICHAEL RADER *(Associate Director)* is a New York City based director who has served as Artistic Director for Cirque du Soleil, Producing Artistic Director for the historic Cape Playhouse, and Executive Producer for Theatre Aspen. Highlights as a director or associate include the Off-Broadway production of Stalking *The Bogeyman* (Outer Critics Circle Nomination), *Varekai* (Cirque Du Soleil), and productions with Sacramento Music Circus, Theatre Aspen, The Cape Playhouse, The York Theatre Company, The Forestburgh Playhouse, The Human Race Theatre, The Dramatist Guild, The Actors Studio and the critically acclaimed Off-Broadway benefit of William Finn's *Elegies: A Song Cycle.* michaelrader.com

WALT SPANGLER *(Original Broadway Scenic Design).* Walt designed the original Broadway production of *A Christmas Story, The Musical.* Recent/upcoming projects include the Broadway premiere of *Escape To Margaritaville,* directed by Christopher Ashley and the Broadway premiere of *Tuck Everlasting,* directed by Casey Nicholaw. Please visit: waltspangler.com.

ELIZABETH HOPE CLANCY *(Original Broadway Costume Design).* Broadway: *A Christmas Story, The Musical; Passing Strange; The Goat, or Who is Sylvia?; Bobbi Boland* and *The Ride Down Mt. Morgan.* International: *The Glass Menagerie* (Shanghai Dramatic Arts), *Death of a Salesman* (Gate Theatre), *A Few Good Men* (Theatre Royal, Haymarket). New York: *The Lady from Dubuque* (Signature Theatre), *Measure for Measure* (Shakespeare in the Park), *The Antigone Project* (Henry Hewes nomination).

HOWELL BINKLEY *(Original Broadway Lighting Design).* Broadway: *Prince of Broadway, Come From Away* (2017 Tony nom), *A Bronx Tale, Hamilton* (2016 Tony Winner), *After Midnight* (2014 Tony nom), *How to Succeed...*starring Daniel Radcliffe (2011 Tony nom), *West Side Story* (2009 Tony nom), *Gypsy* starring Patti LuPone, *In The Heights* (2008 Tony nom), *Jersey Boys* (2006 Tony Winner), *Avenue Q, Parade, Kiss Of The Spider Woman* (1993 Tony nom.) Co-Founder and Resident Lighting Designer for Parsons Dance. 1993 Sir Laurence Olivier and Canadian Dora Awards for *Kiss of The Spider Woman.* 2006 Henry Hewes Design Award for *Jersey Boys.* 2016 Henry Hewes Design Award for *Hamilton.*

MICHAEL CARNAHAN *(Scenic Design Adaption).* Off-Broadway—Atlantic Theater Company: *Skeleton Crew*; 59E59: *I and You*; Second Stage: *The Happiest Song Plays Last*; Signature Theatre: *The Piano Lesson, The First Breeze of Summer; Life Could Be A Dream, The Marvelous Wonderettes, Three Mo' Tenors, Pygmalion, Howie the Rookie, Brando.* Tours—*Cheers, Live On Stage; A Christmas Story, The Musical.* Regional—credits include Arena Stage, American Conservatory Theater, McCarter Theatre, Williamstown Theatre Festival, Baltimore Center Stage, Pasadena Playhouse, Two River Theatre, Cleveland Play House, Laguna Playhouse, Utah Shakespeare Festival, Northlight Theatre, Signature Theatre, Bucks County Playhouse, Ogunquit Playhouse, Arsht Center, Musical Theatre West, San Jose Repertory, Center Rep. Broadway-Associate scenic designer—*Groundhog Day the Musical, Allegiance, The River, Peter and The Starcatcher, ANN: The Ann Richards Play, Cyrano de Bergerac, The Importance of Being Earnest, Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, All About Me, White Christmas, Curtains.* michaelcarnahandesign.com.

CHARLIE MORRISON *(Ahmanson Theatre Lighting Designer, he/him).* National/International Tours: Disney's *The Little Mermaid; A Christmas Story, The Musical; Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* (NYC, Grand Ole Opry, U.S.

Tour); *A Chorus Line* (U.S., Japan, and China); *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang; Miss Saigon; Aida* (U.S. and Asia); *The Producers, Man of La Mancha; Guys and Dolls; Groovaloo* (N.Y.C., L.A., U.S. Tour); *Hello, Dolly!; My Fair Lady; The King and I* (U.S. and Korea); *Spelling Bee; Gypsy; 42nd Street* (U.S. and Japan); *Smokey Joe's Café; The Who's Tommy* (Europe and Japan); *Titanic; The Music Man;* and many others. Regional: Paper Mill Playhouse, Guthrie Theater, Shakespeare Theatre Company (D.C.), Goodspeed Musicals, Seattle Repertory, Seattle 5th Avenue, Broadway Sacramento at Music Circus, Theatre Under the Stars, Dallas Summer Musicals, Kansas City Starlight, Pittsburgh CLO, George Street Playhouse, North Carolina Theatre, PlayMakers Repertory, Tulsa Opera, and many others. Charlie is the recipient of two Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Lighting Design. Cmlighting.com.

BRIAN HSIEH *(Sound Designer, he/him).* Broadway: (ASD) *OUAOMT, JLP, FNL,* SM – *TOTD,* (Prog.) CATCF, (ASD), *YF, PQ,* etc. National Tours: (ASD) *CATCF, FNL, YF, LCAF.* Sound Mixer: *Blast!, MM!.* Regional: (SD) *HORH, SOM,* etc. One of these days, Brian also hopes to figure out what all the acronyms stand for.

WILLIAM BERLONI *(Animal Director and Trainer).* 2011 Tony Honoree for Excellence in Theatre. William found and adopted the original Sandy for the original production of *Annie.* Since then, all the animals he trains are rescues. Broadway: Twenty six shows which include *The Ferryman; The Crucible; Bullets Over Broadway; Lady Day At The Emerson Bar And Grill; Annie* (Original And All Revivals), *A Christmas Story, The Musical; Legally Blonde; Chitty Chitty Bang Bang; Camelot; Alice In Wonderland; Oliver!; Anything Goes; The Wiz;* and *The Wizard Of Oz.* Mr. Berloni is the Animal Director of the musical *Because Of Winn Dixie* with music by Duncan Sheik and book and lyrics by Nell Benjamin. He has trained animals for hundreds of Off-Broadway, regional theatre, tours, television and movies. He provided the dogs to play "Nana" in *Peter Pan Live,* "Toto" in *The Wiz Live* and "Sandy" in *Annie Live.* Other television includes *Power, Billions, Sesame Street, High Maintenance, The Village, Modern Love, Little Voice, Almost Family, Betty, Ramy, Mr Robot, Russian Doll, Raising Kanan, Ghost, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, Girls5eva, Sand Dollar Cove, Noel Diary, Life And Beth, Inside Amy Schumer, Fleishman Is In Trouble, Harlem, Three Women, Harlem, and Just Like That, Kaleidoscope,* and *Fleischman Is In Trouble.* Mr. Berloni and his family are the subjects of Discovery the docu-series entitled *Wags To Riches With Bill Berloni.* Published author of *Broadway Tails.* Mr. Berloni is also the Director of Animal Behavior and Training at the Humane Society of New York. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. theatricalanimals.com .

ALISON FRANCK, C.S.A. *(Casting, she/her)* has been a casting director in NYC for over 25 years. This is her 8th cast of *A Christmas Story, The Musical.* She started as an assistant for many Broadway Productions, then she worked in film/TV for several years, then from 2000- 2010, she was the Resident Casting Director at Paper Mill Playhouse. In 2011, she joined the team at Liz Lewis Casting Partners, where she cast commercials, voiceovers, film/TV, and theatre. Alison now runs her own company, Franck Casting, where she has cast several tours of well-known musicals including *Legally Blonde, Dreamgirls, An American in Paris, A Chorus Line, The Simon and Garfunkel Story Live* and the upcoming *The Cher Show* and *Little Women, the Musical.* franckcasting.com

ANDREW SMITHSON *(Musical Supervisor, Music Director; he/him).* Tours: *A Christmas Story, The Musical; Joseph... Dreamcoat* (starring Diana DeGarmo and Ace Young); *Gypsy; Aida; Legally Blonde; Jesus Christ Superstar.* Off-Broadway: *The Wonderful Wizard of Song, Flanagan's Wake.* Music Director and Orchestrator for *A Christmas Carol* (Trinity Rep), *POPart: the musical* (NYMF Festival), and *Hard Times* (First Irish Theatre Festival). Previous adjunct instructor at the University of Cincinnati-College Conservatory of Music, vocal coach at PACE University in New York City, and Vocal Director at Celebrity Cruises Entertainment.

JAMES BOOK *(Technical Supervisor)* is a multi-faceted theatre technician hailing from Fullerton, CA. James most recently served as the Head Carpenter on the National Tour of *Legally Blonde* with Big League Productions. Favorite credits include Electrician and Assistant TD on the Japan tour of *A Chorus Line,* and the Head Props on the 2021 National Tour of *A Christmas Story, The Musical!* All my love to Sophie and Hazel.

BIG LEAGUE PRODUCTIONS/DANIEL SHER *(Executive Producer and General Management)* is celebrating its 30th season of producing and general managing Broadway tours of shows and attractions throughout the world. Early highlights were collaborations with Disney on Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* (North America, Taiwan, and China) and with Cameron Mackintosh on a new production of *Miss Saigon.* Also, the Tony®-Award winning Broadway revival of *42nd Street* and Susan Stroman's Broadway production of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man.* Others: *Footloose* (Las Vegas, U.S.A), *Titanic, 1776, Peter Pan, A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum starring Rip Taylor, Blast!, The Who's Tommy* (North America, South America, Europe, and Japan), *Ain't Misbehavin'* with Ruben Studdard, and the First National Tour of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*– flying car and all. More recent: *The Producers* (Susan Stroman's original work); *Hello, Dolly!* with Sally Struthers; Guys and Dolls; *My Fair Lady* (U.S. Tour and China premiere); original hip-hop dance show *Groovaloo* (Off-Broadway); *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas! The Musical* (10 USA tours, Grand Ole Opry, and Madison Square Garden); *Dreamgirls* (U.S., China premiere, Japan); Hair (U.S. and Japan); *Bring it On: The Musical* (U.S. and Japan); and *Legally Blonde* (US, China premiere, Singapore).

More recently, *A Chorus Line* toured the U.S.A, Japan and was seen in China for the first time. Post-pandemic, Big League remounted its acclaimed tour of *An American in Paris*, a new production of *South Pacific, Legally Blonde,* and continued touring its flagship production of *A Christmas Story, The Musical.* Current and future work includes *The Cher Show* (First National Tour); *Little Women; A Christmas Story, The Musical* at the Ahmanson Theatre; and *The Addams Family.*

BENJAMIN "BOB" CLARK *(Motion Picture Director/ Co-Screenwriter)* was an actor, director, screenwriter and producer. Mr. Clark directed a diverse collection of both blockbuster and cult hits including *Black Christmas, Murder by Degree, Tribute* and *Porky's.* Working from Jean Shepherd's book, *In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash*, Mr. Clark directed, and co-wrote with Shepherd and Leigh Brown, the motion picture *A Christmas Story.* Films that followed included *Rhinestone, Turk 182!, From the Hip, Loose Cannons,* and *Baby Geniuses.*

WENDY J. CONNOR/DONNA FIEGEL *(Press and Marketing).* TRUE Marketing is a full-service entertainment marketing firm based in Orlando, Florida that boasts a full Marketing and Public Relations Consulting Team, Graphic Design Department, Social Marketing Strategy Team and In-House Video Production Team. Team TRUE has worked on national tours of *A Christmas Story, The Musical; An American In Paris; Legally Blonde; A Chorus Line; My Fair Lady; Spring Awakening; The Producers; 42nd Street; Dreamgirls; Guys and Dolls;* and *The Wizard of Oz.* TeamTRUE.com

CENTER THEATRE GROUP

SNEHAL DESAI *(Artistic Director, he/him)* was appointed Center Theatre Group's third artistic director in 2023. As an artistic leader, Snehal has sought to raise awareness on social issues that affect Angelenos through impactful and empowering storytelling. Previously, he was the Producing Artistic Director of East West Players. A Soros Fellow and the recipient of a Tanne Award, Snehal was the Inaugural Recipient of the Drama League's Classical Directing Fellowship. He has served on the boards of the Consortium of Asian American Theaters and Artists (Caata), Theatre Communications Group (TCG), and currently serves on the board of the National Alliance for Musical Theatre (NAMT). Snehal was on the faculty of USC's graduate program in Arts Leadership and is a graduate of the Yale School of Drama.

MEGHAN PRESSMAN *(Managing Director/CEO, she/her)* joined Center Theatre Group in 2019. Previously, she served as Managing Director of Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company (D.C.), Director of Development for Signature Theatre (N.Y.), and Associate Managing Director of Berkeley Rep. She is a graduate of Yale School of Drama/Yale School of Management and serves as a mentor in the Theater Management program. Meghan has served as the Vice-Chair for the Theatre Communications Group Board of Directors and is a member of the Broadway League.

DOUGLAS C. BAKER *(Producing Director, he/him)* joined Center Theatre Group in 1990. Doug is an active member of the Broadway League, the Independent Presenters Network (IPN), and is a proud member of the Association of Theatrical Press Agents and Managers (ATPAM). In 2013, Doug received the Broadway League's prestigious Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management Award.

GORDON DAVIDSON *(Founding Artistic Director)* led the Taper throughout its first 38 seasons, guiding over 300 productions to its stage and winning countless awards for himself and the theatre—including the Tony Award for theatrical excellence, Margo Jones Award, The Governor's Award for the Arts, and a Guggenheim fellowship. *The Kentucky Cycle* and *Angels in America (Part One)* won the Pulitzer in consecutive years and, in 1994, three of the four plays nominated for the Tony Award for Best Play were from the Taper (*Angels in America* won). In 1989, Gordon took over the Ahmanson and, in 2004, he produced the inaugural season in the Kirk Douglas Theatre.

CENTER THEATRE GROUP, one of the nation's preeminent arts and cultural organizations, is Los Angeles' leading not-for-profit theatre company, which, under the leadership of Artistic Director Snehal Desai, Managing Director / CEO Meghan Pressman, and Producing Director Douglas C. Baker, programs seasons at the 736-seat Mark Taper Forum and 1,600 to 2,100-seat Ahmanson Theatre at The Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles, and the 317-seat Kirk Douglas Theatre in Culver City. In addition to presenting and producing the broadest range of theatrical entertainment in the country, Center Theatre Group is one of the country's leading producers of ambitious new works through commissions and world premiere productions and a leader in interactive community engagement and education programs that reach across generations, demographics, and circumstances to serve Los Angeles. Founded in 1967, Center Theatre Group was led by Founding Artistic Director Gordon Davidson until 2005 when Michael Ritchie became artistic director until his retirement in 2021; Snehal Desai was appointed the organization's next artistic director in 2023. Center Theatre Group has produced more than 700 productions across its three stages, including such iconic shows as *Zoot Suit; Angels in America; The Kentucky Cycle; Biloxi Blues; Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992; Children of a Lesser God; Curtains; The Drowsy Chaperone; 9 to 5: The Musical;* and *Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo.* CenterTheatreGroup.org

BIG LEAGUE PRODUCTIONS, INC.

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General Management Assistant.....Carson Lambert
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Banking.....JPMorgan Chase
Payroll.....Checks & Balances Payroll, Inc
Christmas Story National Tour Booking.....L. Glenn Poppleton

TRUE MARKETING

Wendy Connor
Donna Fiegel

Company Manager.....Quinn Felisa O'Connor

Orchestrations Adapted by.....Dan Redfeld
Associate Lighting Designer.....Gary C. Echelmeyer
Associate Sound Designer.....John Nobori
Wardrobe Coordinator.....Donna MacNaughton
Assistant Wardrobe Coordinator.....Katie Sciacqua
Production Carpenter.....Rodney Mann
Assistant Carpenter.....David Thoms
Assistant Production Carpenter/Automation Operator.....Jim Book
Head Electrician.....James Book
Head Props.....Hailey Gold
Head Audio.....Timothy Riggs
Hair/Wig Supervisor.....Victoria Tinsman
Production Assistant.....Jessica Keasberry-Vnuk
Studio Teachers.....Randy Hoffman, Laurel Geare, Daryl Chou
Animal Handler.....John "Grim" Grimsley
Keyboard Programmer.....Gary Georgett
Production Consultant.....Kevin Brannick
Stitchers.....Hannah Reinartz, Kendall Veronick,
Shaunte Williams, Gio Dilbeck, Saundra Brungard
Physical Therapy.....FusionArts/Karen Moran P.T.

CREDITS

Lighting Provided by Felix Lighting
Sound Provided by DnB Design
Trucking by Nation Wide Logistics
Star Drops constructed by Main Light Industries, Inc.
House Automation by MacGuire Scenic
Some drops painted by Colbalt Studios, Inc.
Car constructed by Hamilton Scenery

SPECIAL THANKS

Tom McCoy and Jerry Goehring

The Actors and Stage Managers employed in this production are members of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers of the United States. This theatre operates under an agreement between the League of Resident Theatres and Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

The following employees are represented by the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Machine Operators, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada, AFL-CIO, CLC: Stage Crew Local 33; Treasurers and Ticket Sellers Local 857; Wardrobe Crew Local 768; Make-up Artists and Hair Stylists Local 706.

The House Managers and Press Agents employed in this production are represented by the Association of Theatrical Press Agents & Managers.

The Musicians employed in this production are members of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States.

The Director and Choreographer are members of the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers, Inc., an independent national labor union.

United Scenic Artists represents designers and scenic artists for the American Theatre.

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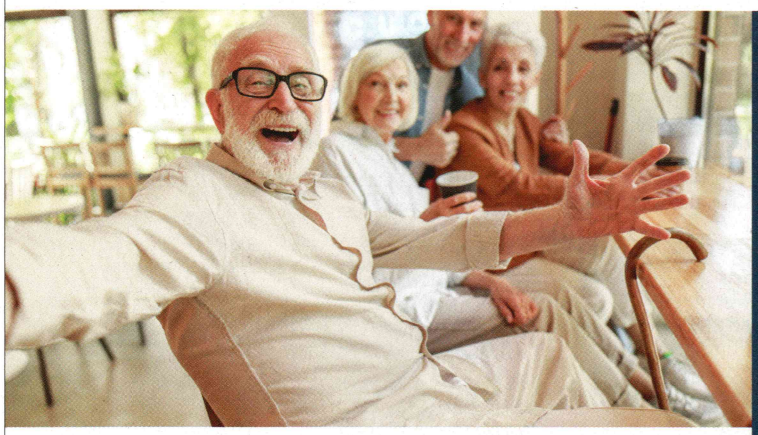
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continues on page 28

continued from page 27

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SPEM IN ALIUM

JANUARY 28, 2024

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Additional works to be announced.

JENNY WONG, conductor
80 singers

This program is made possible by generous support from the Dan Murphy Foundation.

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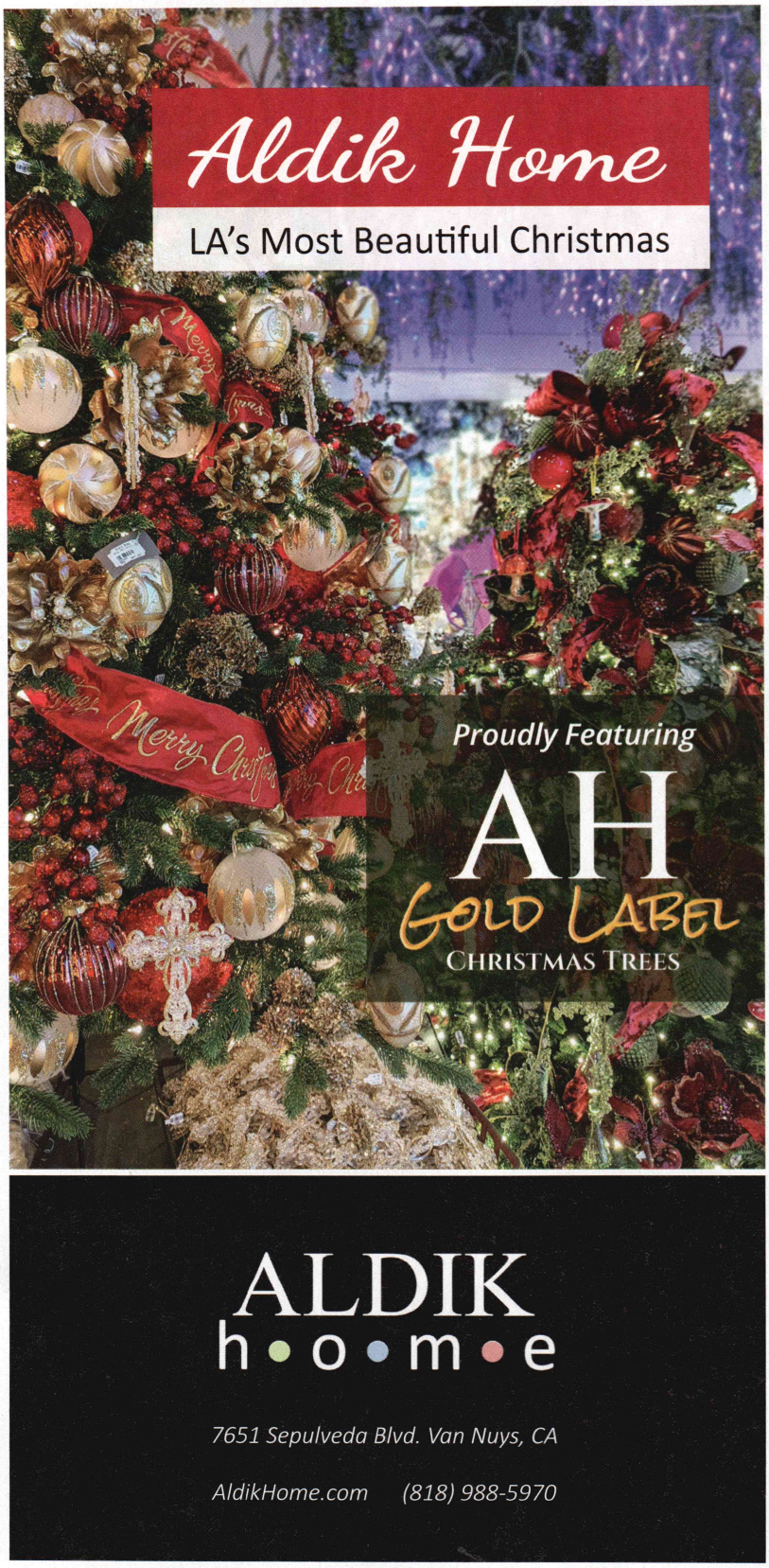
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continued from page 18

Jethro and Reba are rescue dogs, which Berloni finds to be an important part of his work. Reba was found in Boston as a stray and Jethro was found tied to a tree in Indiana. The dog who played Sandy in the original production of *Annie* was also a rescue dog, which sparked a lifelong dedication to animal adoption and working with rescue dogs for training. He's pleased with how attitudes toward animal adoption have changed since he started working with animals, but he hopes that people continue to support shelters and adopt animals. "There are beautiful, wonderful animals that ended up in shelters that need homes," Berloni said.

"There should be more transparency about how animals are used in entertainment so we can set some standards that will protect them."

–Bill Berloni



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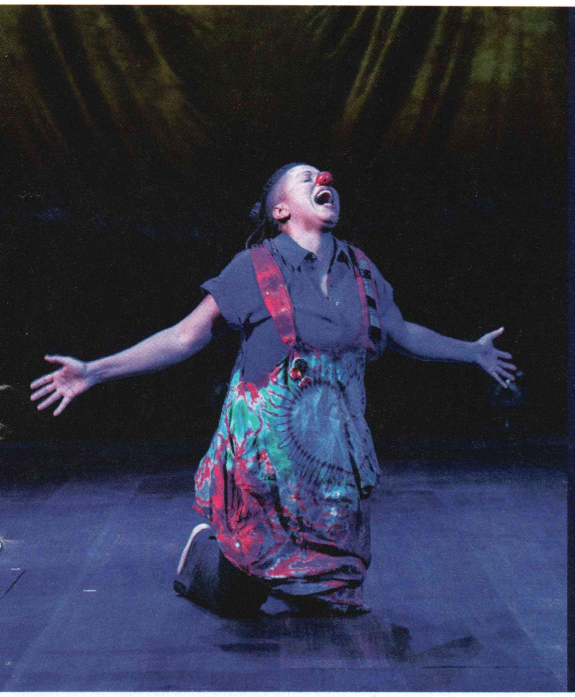
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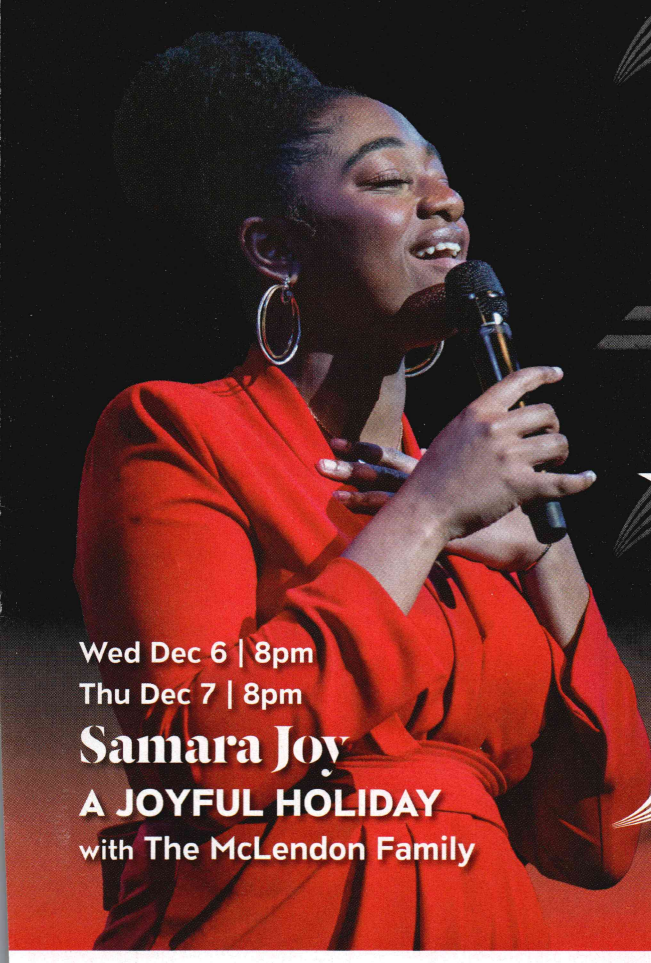
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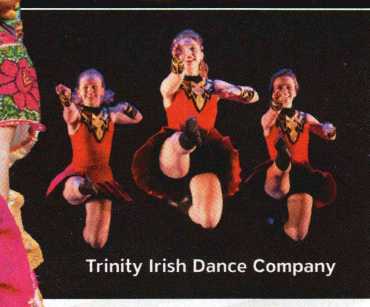
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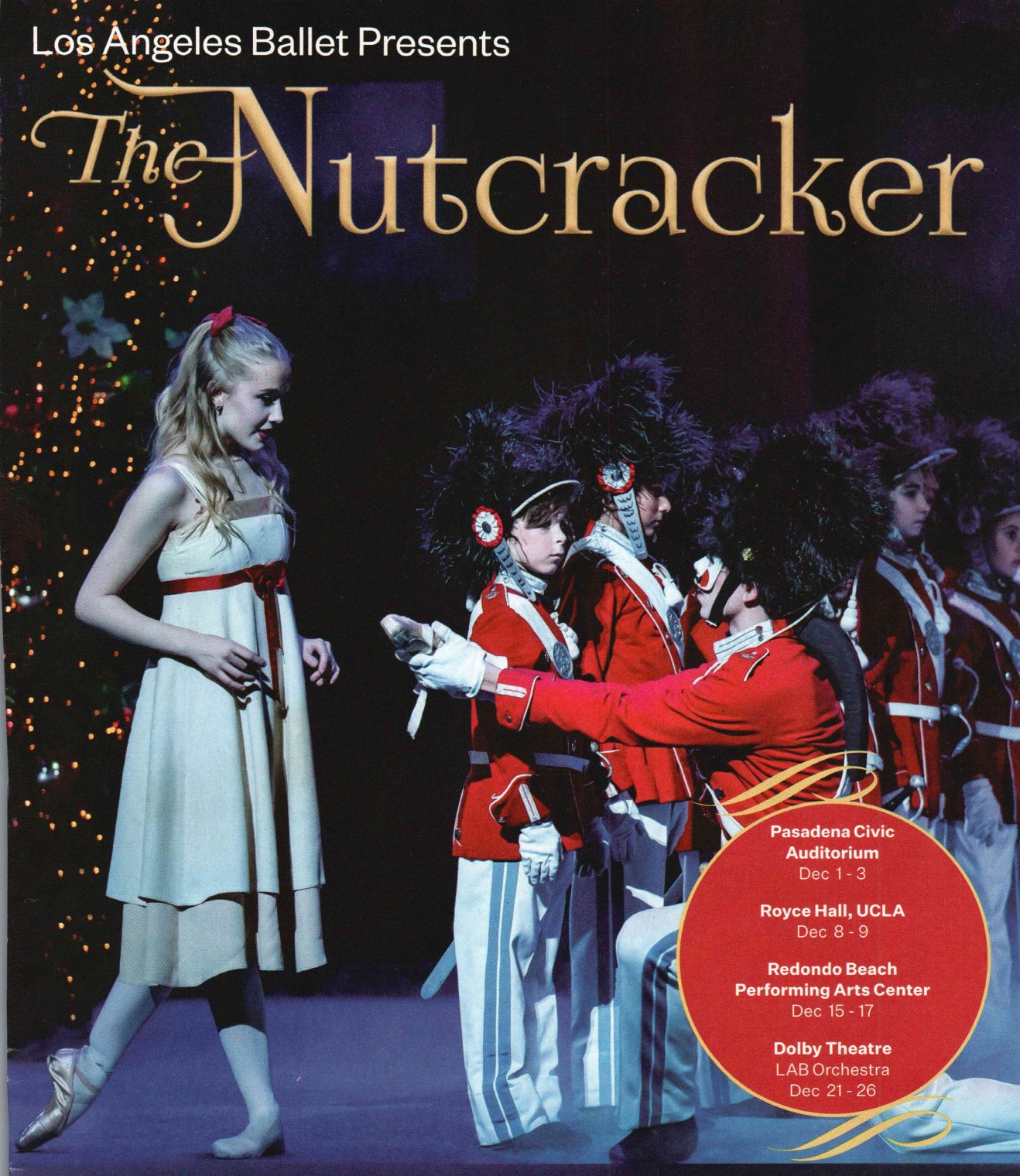
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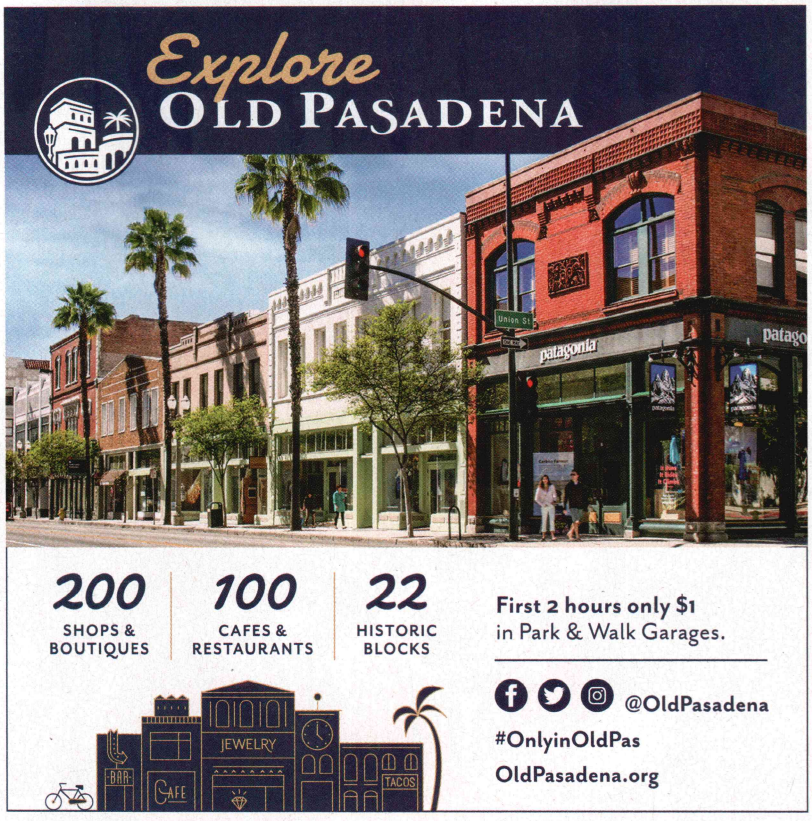
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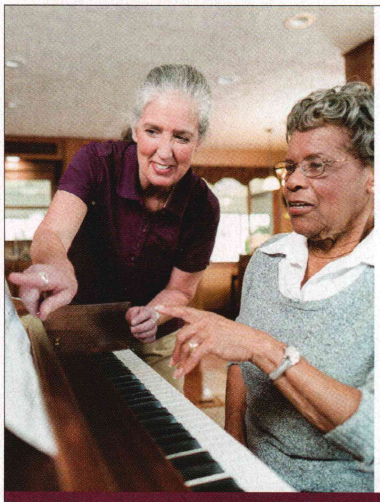
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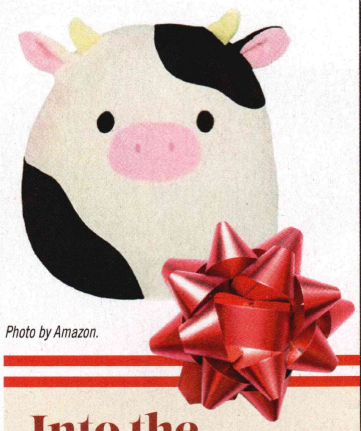


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Peter Pan Goes Wrong:

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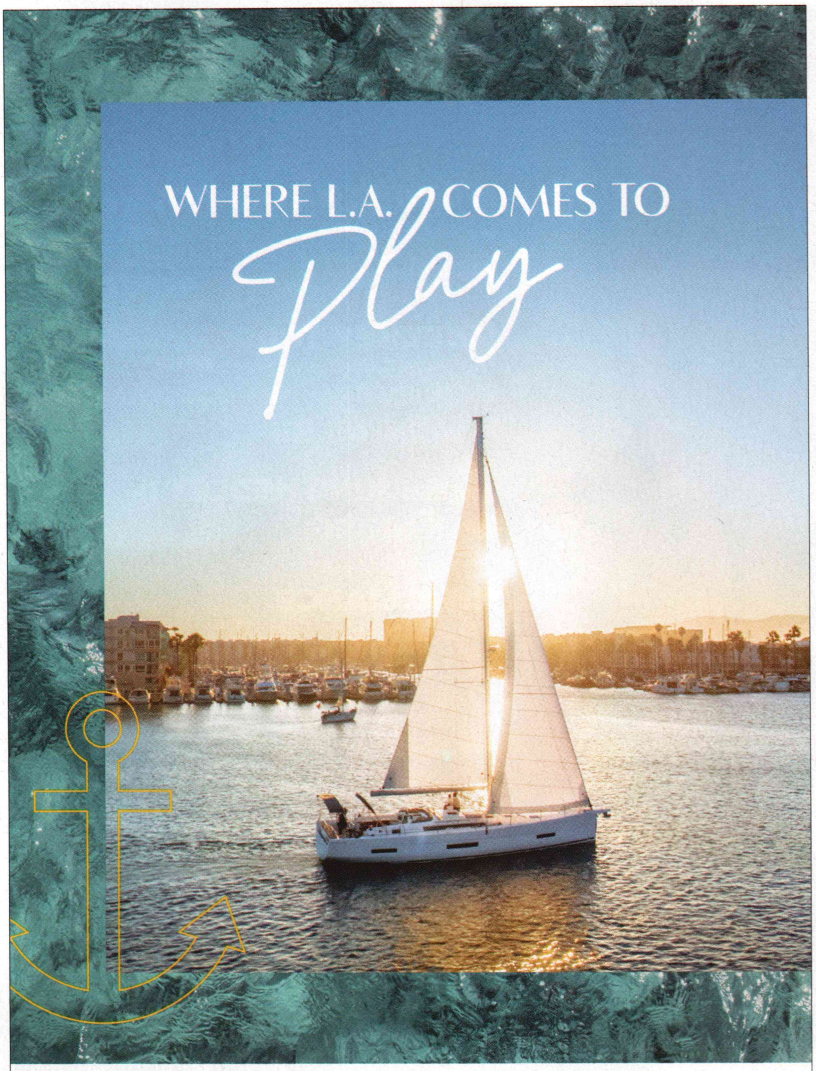
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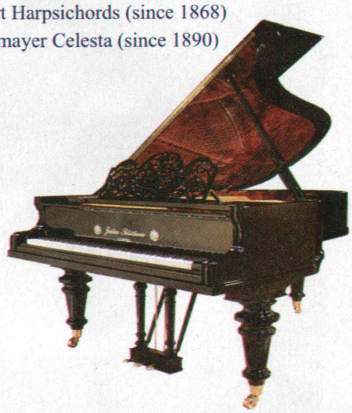
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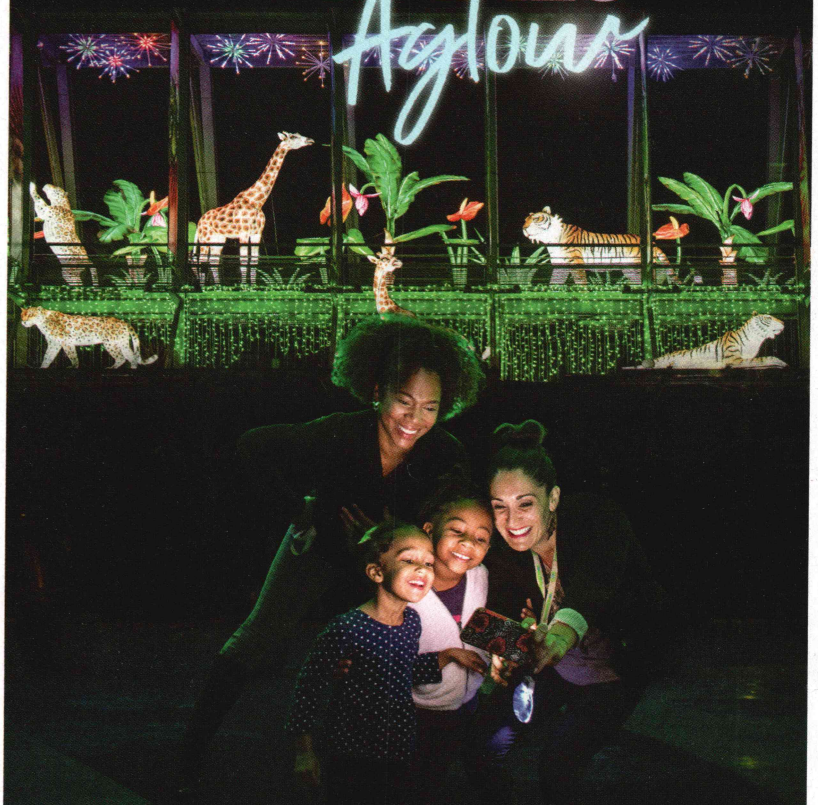
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We promise to provide you the best, safest experience possible on our campus.

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Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Khalia Campbell. Photo by Dario Calmese.

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Live at The Music Center

DEC 2023

FRI 1 DEC / 8:00 p.m.
Esa-Pekka Salonen and Ravel
LA PHIL
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall
Thru 12/3/23

SAT 2 DEC / 7:30 p.m.
Audra McDonald in Concert
LA OPERA
@ Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

SAT 2 DEC / 2:00 p.m.
Festival of Carols
LOS ANGELES
MASTER CHORALE
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall

SUN 3 DEC / 7:00 P.M.
Feinstein's at the Taper
CENTER THEATRE GROUP
@ Mark Taper Forum

SUN 3 DEC / 2:00 p.m.
El Último Sueño de Frida & Diego
LA OPERA
@ Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
Thru 12/9/23

TUE 5 DEC / 8:00 p.m.
A Christmas Story, The Musical
CENTER THEATRE GROUP
@ Ahmanson Theatre
Thru 12/31/23

THU 7 DEC / 8:00 p.m.
Mehta, Mahler, and Seong-Jin Cho
LA PHIL
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall
Thru 12/10/23

SUN 10 DEC / 7:00 p.m.
Navidad Neustra: December in the Americas
LOS ANGELES
MASTER CHORALE
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall

WED 13 DEC / 8:00 p.m.
A Chanticleer Christmas
LA PHIL
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall

THU 14 DEC / 8:00 p.m.
Beethoven Symphonies with Zubin Mehta
LA PHIL
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall
Thru 12/17/23

FRI 15 DEC / 8:00 p.m.
The Manhattan Transfer: The Final Farewell Concert
LA PHIL
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall

SAT 16 DEC / 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Holiday Sing-Along
LA PHIL
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall

SUN 17 DEC / 7:00 p.m.
Handel's Messiah
LOS ANGELES
MASTER CHORALE
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall

SAT 18 DEC / 6:00 p.m.
Carols on the Plaza
LOS ANGELES
MASTER CHORALE
@ Jerry Moss Plaza

MON 18 DEC / 7:30 p.m.
Messiah Sing-Along
LOS ANGELES
MASTER CHORALE
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall

WED 20 DEC / 8:00 p.m.
Home Alone in Concert
LA PHIL
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall
Thru 12/22/23

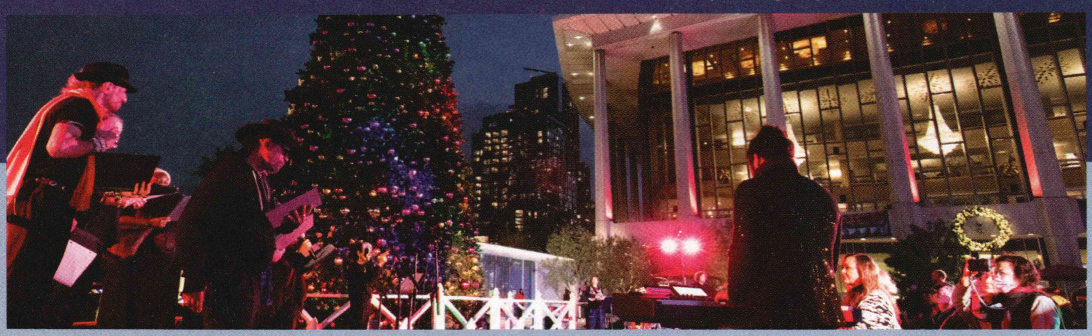
SAT 23 DEC / 8:00 p.m.
Arturo Sandoval Swinging Holiday
LA PHIL
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall

SUN 24 DEC / 8:00 p.m.
L.A. County Holiday Celebration
THE MUSIC CENTER
@ Dorothy Chandler Pavilion

SUN 31 DEC / 7:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.
New Year's Eve with Pink Martini featuring China Forbes
LA PHIL
@ Walt Disney Concert Hall

SUN DEC 31 / 8:00 p.m.
Gloria Molina Grand Park's NYELA
The Music Center / TMC Arts
@Gloria Molina Grand Park

L.A. County Tree Lighting Ceremony. Photo by Bryan Chan.



Visit **musiccenter.org** for additional information on all upcoming events.

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Pina Bausch's *The Rite of Spring*. Photo by Maarten Vanden Abeele.

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"MJ DELIVERS THE THRILLS!"
- THE NEW YORK TIMES

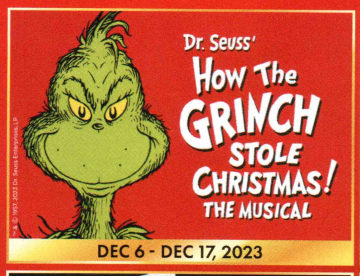


MJ THE MUSICAL

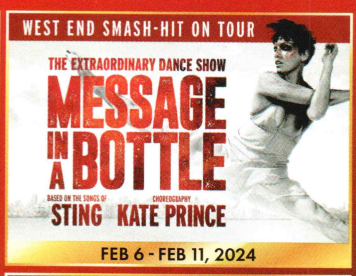
DEC 20, 2023 - JAN 28, 2024

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DEC 6 - DEC 17, 2023



FEB 6 - FEB 11, 2024



FEB 13 - MAR 3, 2024



MAR 5 - MAR 24, 2024



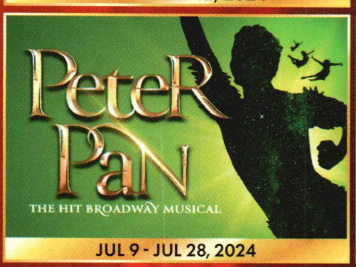
MAY 7 - MAY 12, 2024



MAY 14 - JUN 2, 2024



JUN 11 - JUN 30, 2024



JUL 9 - JUL 28, 2024



JUL 30 - AUG 18, 2024

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